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# A MANUAL FOR DRIVERS IN GERMANY



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A MANUAL FOR DRIVERS  
IN GERMANY



## Introduction

The object of this book is to assist drivers in learning the German Highway Code which must be observed by all vehicles in the British Zone of Germany.

The code is very similar to the British one, except that vehicles drive on the right-hand side of the road and there is a special rule about the right of way at cross roads of equal priority.

The highway signs are different and must be learnt.

All drivers are warned that the cobble and macadam roads of Germany are very slippery when wet. Snow and ice covered roads are very dangerous and many accidents occur during these conditions. The greatest caution must be observed.

## Orders and Instructions

In addition to drivers knowing the German Highway Code, they must also know the orders and regulations issued by the British authorities in connection with motor vehicles and their operation.

The order below relates to traffic accidents and may be amended or added to from time to time.

Drivers must know the maximum speeds which their vehicles must not exceed on the autobahnen and on other roads.

### General

1. The present rate of traffic accidents is so high that it is essential that disciplinary action be taken against drivers who violate Traffic Regulations, or are found to be at fault in an accident.



## Responsibility for Accidents

2. When considering the responsibility for an accident, the following factors will be taken into consideration as they are normally evidence of neglect by the driver :—

- (a) Vehicle not on the correct side of the road.
- (b) Accidents at cross roads or intersections.
- (c) Excessive speed or overtaking, dependent on road conditions.
- (d) Striking a stationary object or vehicle.
- (e) Skidding.
- (f) Failure to conform to German Traffic Signs.
- (g) Driving a vehicle knowing it is not in a roadworthy condition.

## Highway Code and Priority at Cross Roads

3. Drivers will comply with the German Highway Code. This is similar to the British Highway Code except that :—

- (a) Vehicles drive on the right-hand side of the road.
- (b) At road crossings and junctions the user of the main road has priority.

Main roads are National Highways, including principal thoroughfares through towns and major roads.



A diamond sign with a red border indicates that you are on a major road and have priority over other traffic at the next cross roads or road junction.



A triangle with a red border and base uppermost indicates 'Danger, major road ahead' and you must give way to traffic on that road.

At crossings and junctions of roads and streets of equal priority, the vehicle approaching from the right has right of way. A case of priority does not arise if one of the two road users is already on the crossing.

These rules do not absolve drivers from using adequate caution at all crossings and intersections, particularly in the absence of signs.

- (c) Trams must be overtaken on the right. If the space between tram and kerb does not allow this, it is permissible to overtake on the left. On one-way streets, it is permissible to overtake on the right or left.
- (d) At tram stops, where passengers are alighting from or boarding a tram, all vehicles will slow down and, if necessary, stop.
- (e) Parking (other than for loading purposes) is forbidden:
  - (i) on places marked by 'No Parking' signs,
  - (ii) in narrow streets and at dangerous bends,



a) Within 10m. of x-roads, corners, Rd junction, and ~~to~~ no  
admission of and 15m. for Stop Signs for public  
conveyances.

(iii) ~~within 10 metres of cross roads, corners, road  
junctions, and Stop Signs for public conveyances,~~

(iv) on traffic islands,

(v) at exits and entries.

### Speed Limits

4. The Speed Limits laid down for vehicles will not be exceeded.

Drivers will reduce speed when prevailing conditions require it. The maximum safe speed for any road depends on various factors such as :—

- (a) The type of vehicle.
- (b) The type of road and the condition of its surface.
- (c) Weather: especially fog, snow, ice and thaw.
- (d) Other traffic.

5. Speed Limits in built-up areas or elsewhere will be strictly adhered to.

Speed will also be reduced when houses abut on to the roadside.

On occasions overall Speed Limits may be imposed on all roads when snow, frost or thaw conditions prevail.

6. A passenger senior in rank to the driver will at no time give orders to the driver to exceed the Speed Limit laid down for that particular type of vehicle.

### Driver's Responsibility

7. The driver is responsible for the safe driving of his vehicle.

In the case of vehicles with right-hand drive, the passenger on the left can assist, prior to overtaking a vehicle, by indicating whether the road ahead is clear or not. For this purpose the words "clear" or "no" will be used.

"Clear" indicates that in the opinion of the passenger it is safe for the driver to pull out to view the road ahead.

It is the sole responsibility of the driver as to whether he proceeds to overtake or not ; this is irrespective of the rank of the individual who has given the word "clear".

### Responsibility of Officers and NCOs

8. It is the responsibility of a passenger senior in rank to the driver to check the driver if he notices him exceeding the Speed Limit, violating Traffic Regulations or in any way driving dangerously, carelessly or negligently. Officers and NCOs also have the responsibility of reporting any cases which come to their notice of dangerous driving or speeding by the driver of any vehicle.

### Road Conditions and other Factors

9. Except for the autobahnen, the majority of roads in BAOR are inherently dangerous. Many are narrow and bordered by trees, and by earth verges in poor condition and some inches below the level of the hard road surface. These verges are intended for horse drawn vehicles and not for motor vehicles except for parking.

10. Cobbled roads have a poor surface for braking. They are very slippery and dangerous when wet, as are most of the macadam roads.

Application of the brakes, unless done gently, is liable to result in a skid which is very difficult to control.



11. Many roads are steeply cambered so that bends must be taken steadily on the correct side of the road. Corners and bends will not be cut.

12. A road surface which is dry in the open may be wet under the trees. Fallen leaves are a cause of skidding. Roads in winter are very dangerous on account of snow, ice or thaw conditions. One of the greatest hazards is a wet road which may freeze over.

During a thaw the road surface deteriorates and pot holes are formed ; these are an obvious source of danger.

13. German heavy vehicles dare not risk running off the hard surface on to wet or snow-covered verges. Frequently their drivers cannot hear the horns of the overtaking vehicles. Drivers will exercise caution when overtaking and must not be impatient.

14. At night many German vehicles have no tail lights. Drivers will make allowances for this especially in the face of oncoming traffic at night.

Speed will always be reduced before dimming or dipping lights.

### Ventilation

15. Drivers will ensure that there is adequate ventilation inside their vehicle. Exhaust fumes contain carbon monoxide. This gas has no smell and is capable of causing a blackout and death. Drivers of load carriers with enclosed cabs will ensure that one window is always partly open. This will give ventilation and enable them to hear the horns of overtaking traffic.

## Principal German Traffic Signs

The German Traffic Signs are very simple. If one knows the main types, it is easy to classify other signs.



A red bordered triangle always indicates the necessity for caution, and a sign in the centre shows the reason.



An up-turned triangle, red bordered, means: 'Attention, major road ahead'. One must give way to traffic on the major road ahead.

The same sign with blue centre and with 'HALT' in white means: 'Halt, give way to traffic on the major road'.



A bold red circle always indicates 'Forbidden'. The sign as shown here means: 'Road closed to ALL vehicles, including carriages, cyclists, etc.' The same red circle is used as the basis for 'No Parking', 'No Halting', and Speed Limit signs.



A thin red circle with an arrow inside it indicates the direction which all vehicles must follow. This one means: 'Right turn, it is forbidden to drive in any other direction'.



A blue square with a sign in the centre is used for Schools (as opposite), First Aid Stations, Car Parks, etc.



# Traffic Signs and their Meaning

## 1. Warnings



### Danger !

Put up in front of particularly dangerous spots, road repairs, narrow streets, particularly dangerous bends, etc.  
Slow down !



### Gutter ! (shallow ditch across road)

Put up in front of gutters, bumps and level crossings. Slow down ! Change down if necessary.



### Bend !

Put up in front of bends.  
Slow down ! Keep well to the right.  
Overtaking is forbidden !



### Cross Roads !

Put up in front of dangerous and busy cross roads.  
Slow down ! Change down as required.  
Be careful.



### Level Crossing with Gate !

Slow down ! Ensure that the road is clear and that the gates are not about to be closed.



### Level Crossing No Gate !

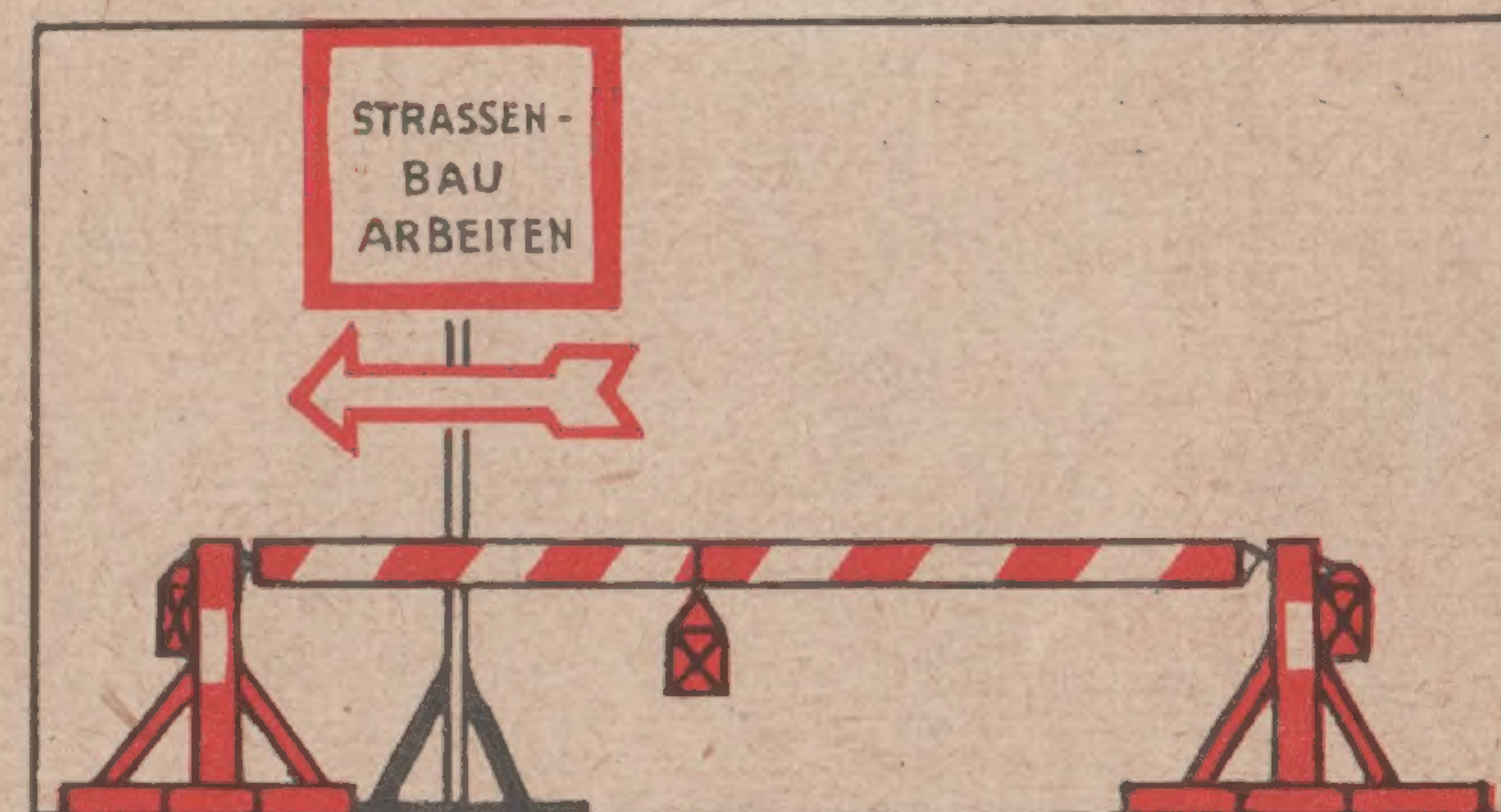
Slow down so as to be able to draw to a halt in time. Be extremely careful.

## 2. Location of Traffic Signs

Traffic signs are put up at right angles to the direction of traffic on the right-hand side of the road.

### Warning Signs

are generally put up 150—200 metres in front of danger spots. If, in exceptional cases, the warning board is put up in front of the danger spot at a distance much less than mentioned above, the distance is given under the warning board, as shown in the picture.



### Warning Boards

for road repairs. During the night these places will be marked by red lamps. Slow down. Drive carefully. Remember that sometimes obstructions may not be illuminated owing to lamp failure, etc.



### 3. Traffic Signs



#### Road Closed !

Closed to all vehicles, including carts, cyclists, etc.



#### No Thoroughfare !

Put up at the beginning of a one-way street. All vehicles forbidden.



#### All Motor Cars Forbidden !



#### Motor Bicycles Forbidden !

Motor bicycles with or without side cars forbidden.



#### Motor Cars Forbidden on Sundays and Holidays !

This applies only to motor cars and lorries and is mostly put up in spas.



#### Motor Bicycles Forbidden on Sundays and Holidays !

This is, like the above one, a restricting sign. It applies to motor cyclists with or without side cars.



#### All Motor Vehicles Forbidden !

Motor vehicles are all vehicles that are driven by motor power.



#### Cyclists Only !

All other road users are forbidden to use this part of the road.



#### All Vehicles exceeding a certain total Weight Forbidden ! (in this case of more than 5.5 tons)

Total weight is tare-weight of vehicle plus loading.



#### All Vehicles of more than a certain Height Forbidden ! (e.g. 3 m, 3.20 m, 3.50 m, etc.)

The respective height is shown on the sign. Applies mainly to motor lorries. (height must NEVER exceed 4 metres).



#### All Vehicles of more than a certain Width Forbidden ! (in this case of more than 2 metres)

This applies mainly to lorries.



#### Custom Office. Stop !

Put up in front of frontier and custom offices.





**Speed Limit 30 km per hour!**



**No Halting !**

Put up in front of exits for fire-brigade, narrow streets, etc.

Even the shortest stop is forbidden.



**No Parking !**

Parking forbidden for all vehicles. A short stop for getting in or out is allowed.



**No Parking !**

Indicates beginning of a 'No Parking' zone.

Anfang

**No Parking !**

This sign indicates that parking is forbidden for some distance on either side. The sign shown above is usually put up at the beginning of the zone, and the one below, at the end. Where these are not put up 'No Parking' is in force up to the next street corner.



Ende

**No Parking !**

Indicates the end of a 'No Parking' zone. Parking is allowed after this sign.



**Prescribed Direction !**

'Right Turn !' It is forbidden to drive in any other direction. Therefore turn to the right in front of the sign.



**Prescribed Direction !**

'Straight On !' Turning to left or right forbidden !



**Prescribed Direction !**

'Right Turn !' Any other direction forbidden. Turn to the right behind the sign as soon as possible.



**Prescribed Direction !**

'Right Turn or Straight On !'



**Attention ! Major Road ahead !**



**Halt ! Major Road ahead !**

Sign indicating road where cars *must* stop in order to give right of way.





### One-way Streets !

Backing and turning is forbidden in these streets.

## 4. Directing Signs



### Car Park !

Use Car Parks if possible.

When parking, ensure that the car is immobilised as laid down in regulations.



### Caution !

This sign is put up in front of schools, hospitals, etc. Take special care.



### First Aid !

Put up in front of first aid stations.



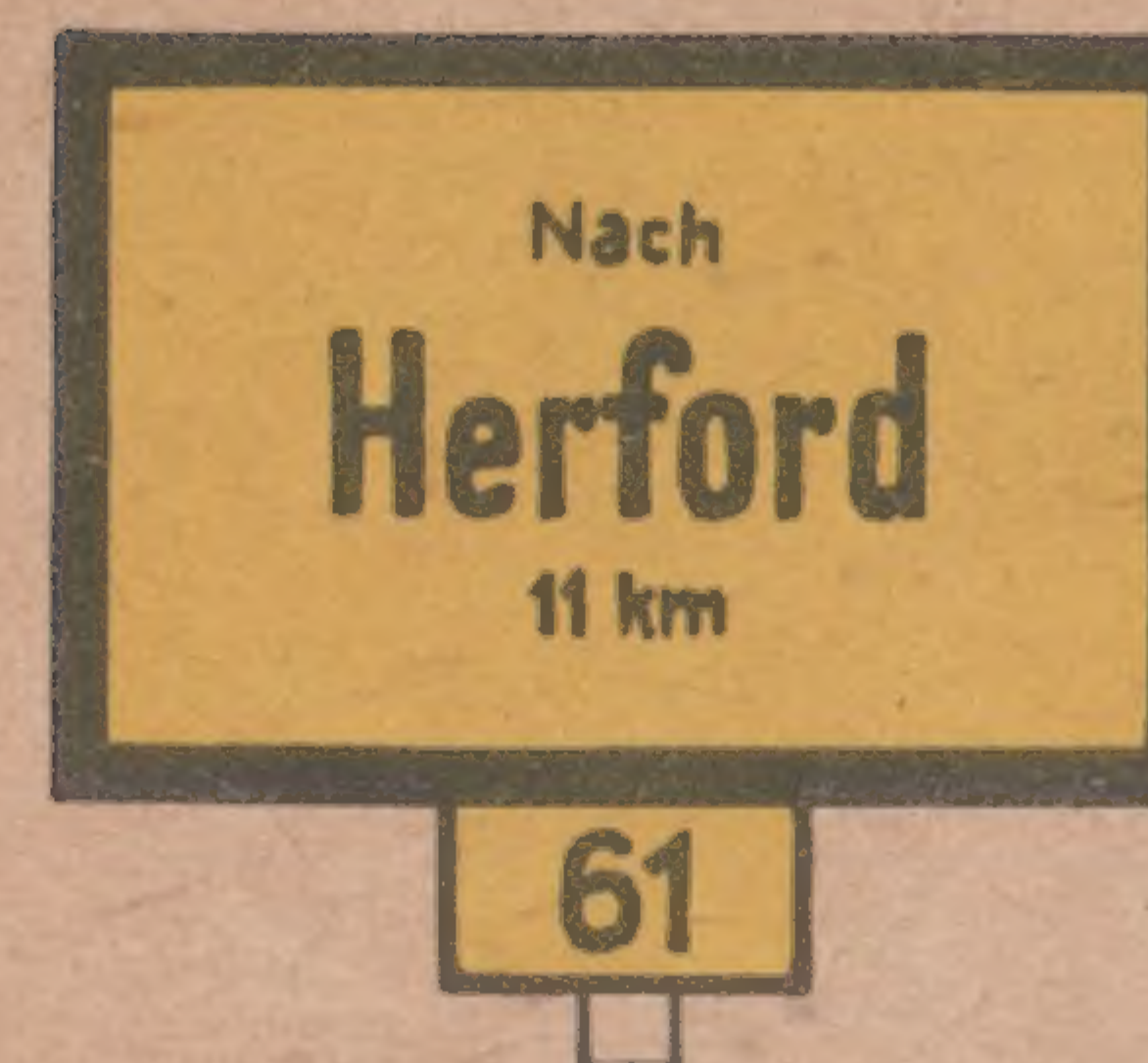
### Taxi Park !

Taxis only ! The number of taxis allowed to park here is given on the sign. Parking forbidden for all other vehicles.



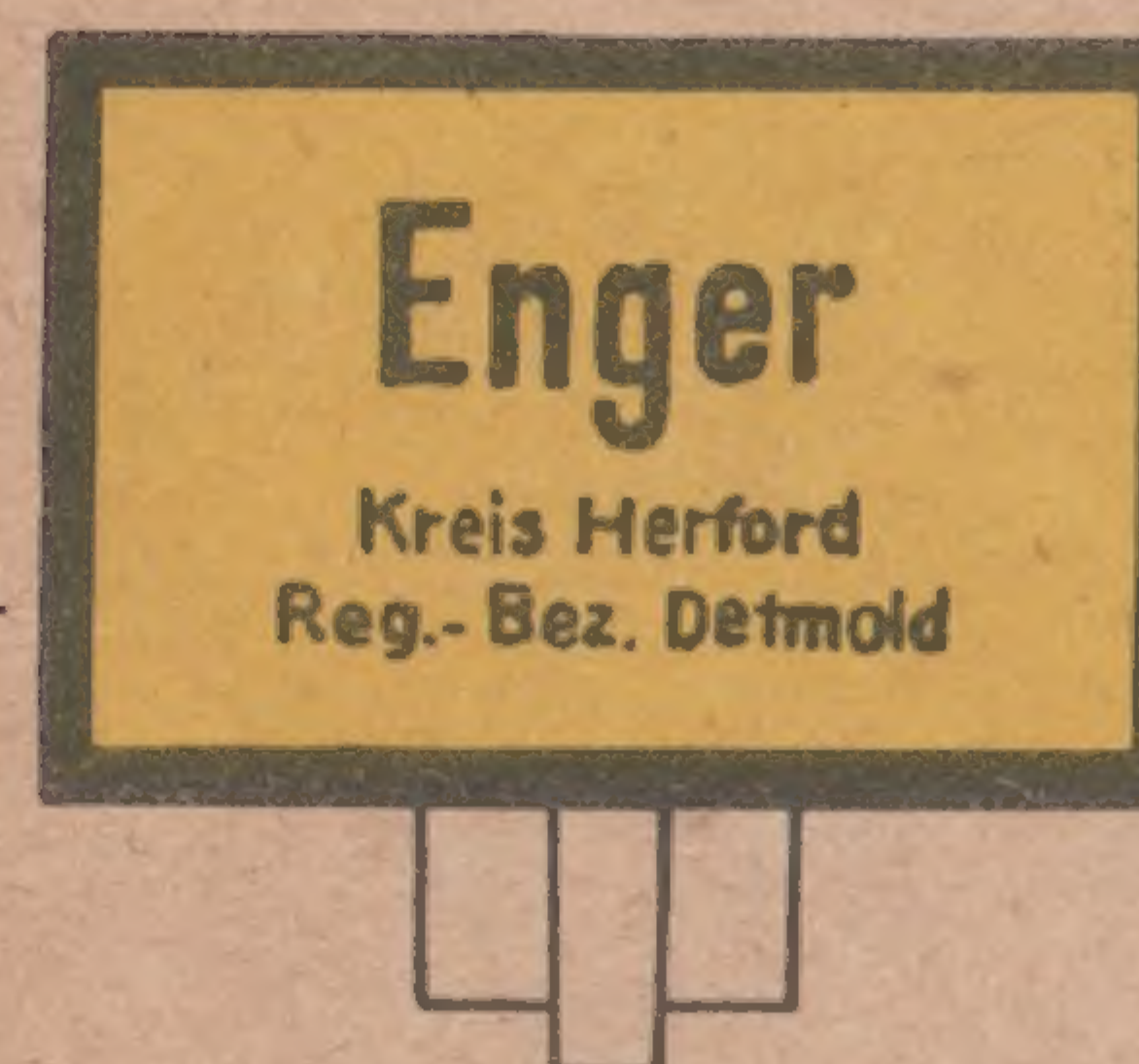
### Ring round Lamp Posts !

Indicating lamps NOT burning all night. It is better to park under a lighted lamp.



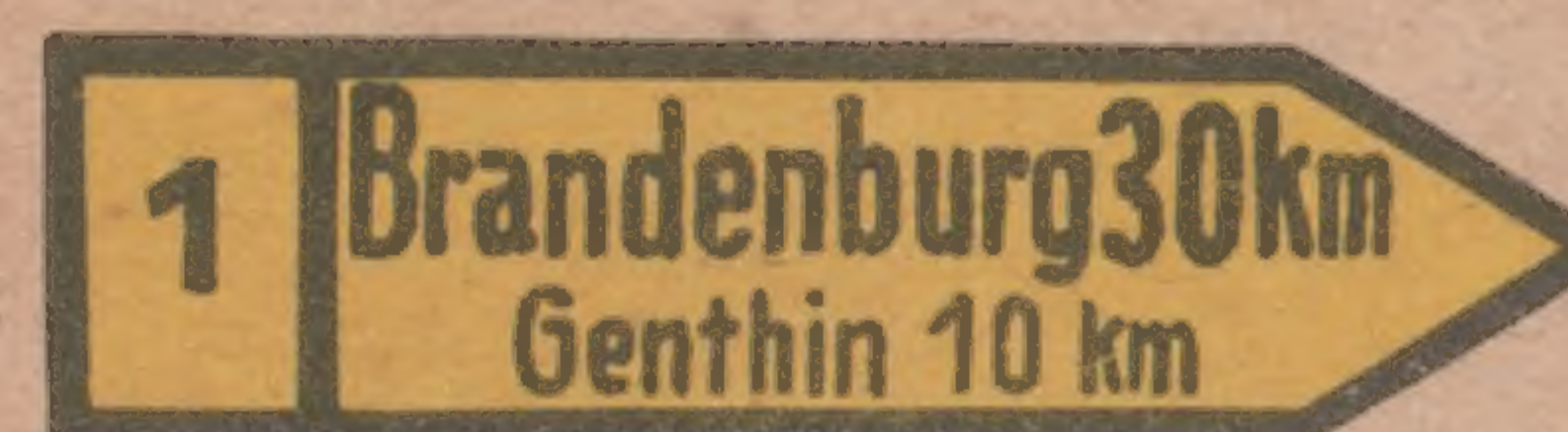
### Sign Post indicating Name of Place !

Directing sign indicating distance (km) to next indicated place.



### Sign Post indicating Name of Place !

Put up at the beginning of a place. Indicates names of places, etc.



### Sign Post for Bundesstrassen !

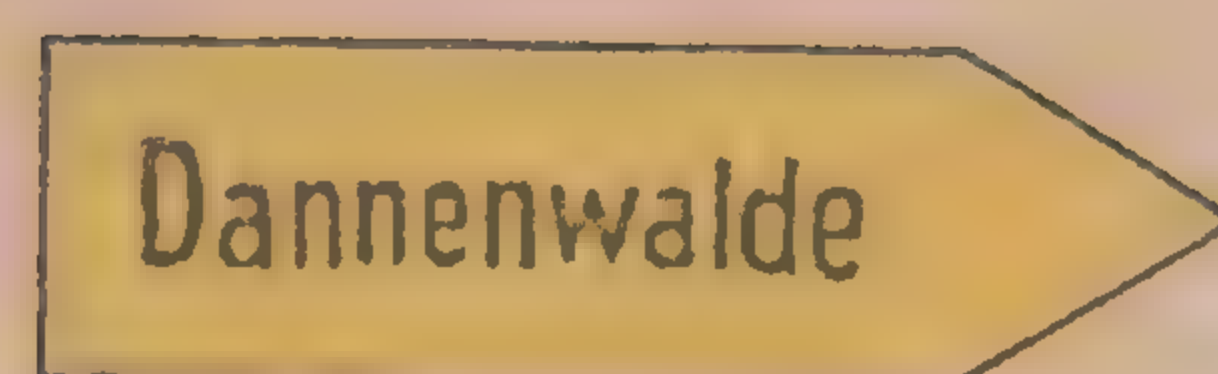
Indicating number of Bundesstrasse (highway) and distance to indicated towns.



### Sign Post for Other Metalled Roads !

Stating distance to place indicated on sign.





### Sign Post for Un- metalled Roads !

Stating direction.



Number of Bundesstrasse !



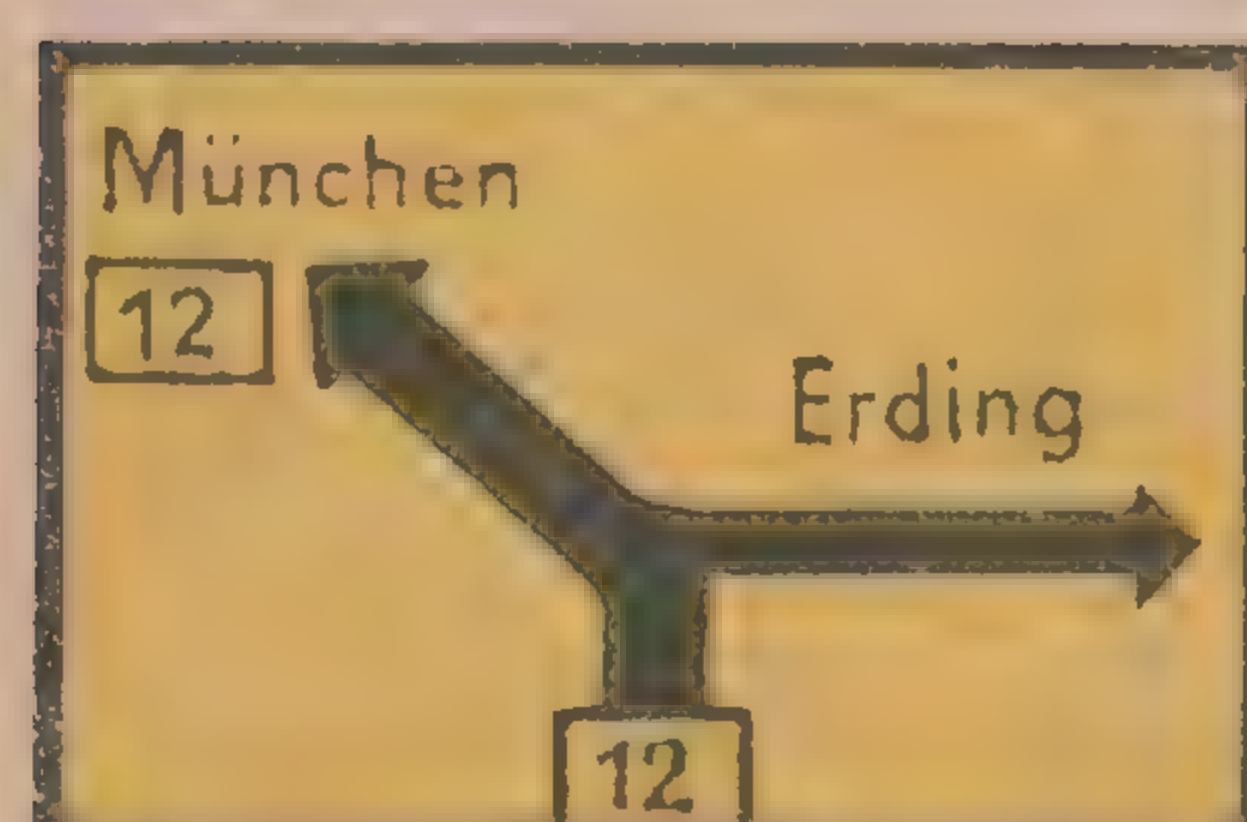
Number of Bundesstrasse !

Painted on kerb-stones.



Long Distance Traffic !

Marking road for long distance traffic.



### Sign Post !

These signs are put up on the Bundesstrassen in front of important road junctions. Slow down, as such junctions are dangerous.



### Main Road !

Indicating you are on a main road.

### Signs for Level Crossings

These warning crosses of the railway are put up in front of the level crossing.



### Half Cross !

Level crossing with gate.



### Full Cross !

Level crossing. No gate. Single line.



### Double Cross !

Level crossing. No gate. Multiple line.

### Flashing Lights

Flashing lights are fixed under the warning crosses of some level crossings.

White light meaning: Free !

Red light meaning: Attention ! Train approaching.



## Fundamental Rules for Road Users

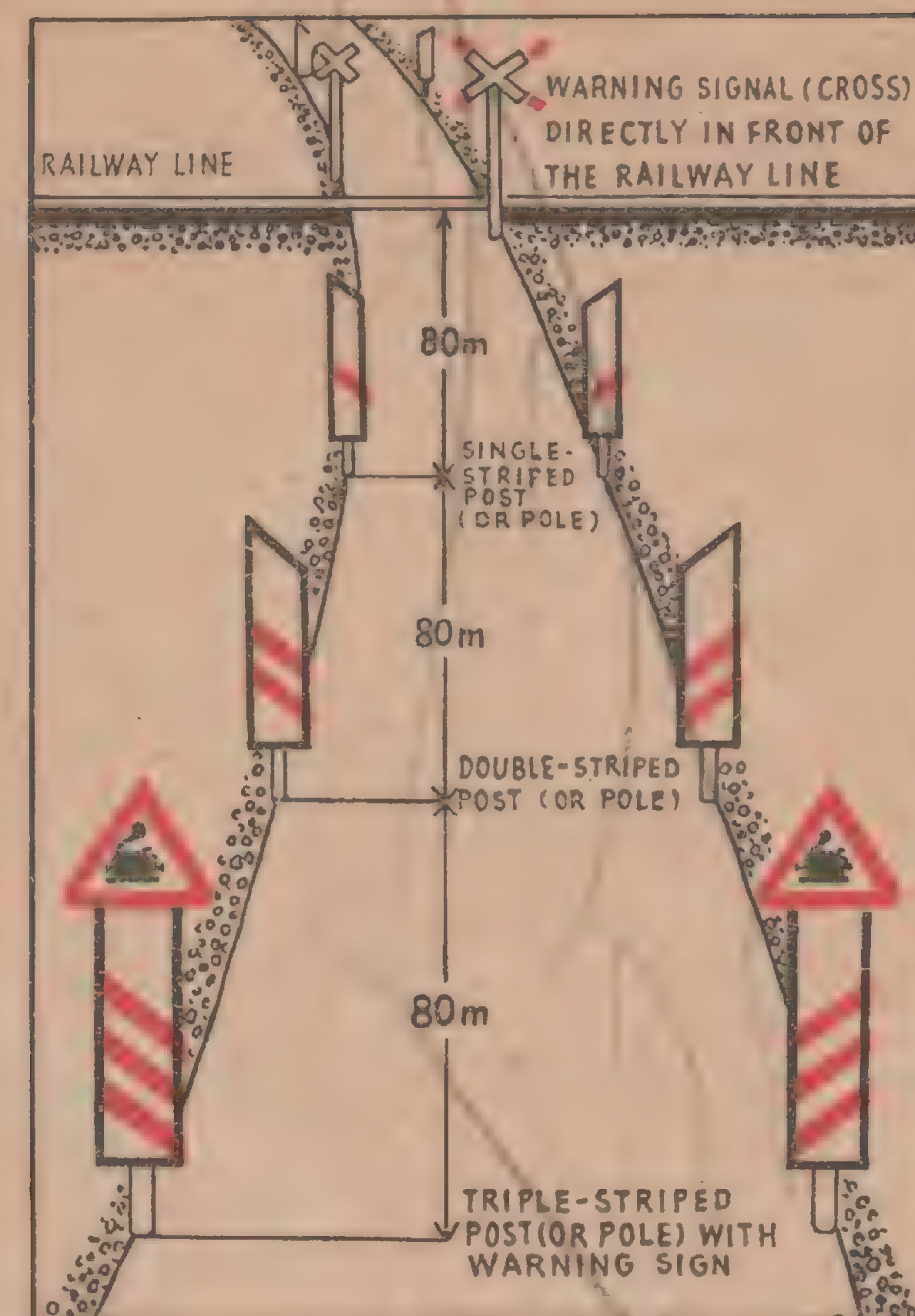
1. Road users must behave in such a way as not to hinder other traffic or cause hurt or inconvenience to any person.

The following faults are a source of danger:

- (a) Failure to observe the "rule of the road".
- (b) Reckless driving, i.e., excessive speed in view of prevailing road conditions — cutting bends — cutting in and out of traffic, etc.
- (c) Improper overtaking, i.e., in the face of oncoming traffic — bends — crests of hills — narrow roads — or overtaking on the wrong (right-hand) side.
- (d) Following other vehicles too closely.
- (e) Neglecting traffic regulations at cross roads.
- (f) Neglecting traffic signs.
- (g) Failing to give signals correctly.
- (h) Failing to slow down in built-up areas.
- (i) Parking in forbidden or unsuitable places where other traffic may be hindered.
- (k) Driving a vehicle which is not roadworthy, i.e., has faulty steering-gear, tyres, brakes, lights, horn, windscreen-wiper, mirror, etc.
- (l) Driving an over-loaded or incorrectly loaded vehicle.
- (m) Driving when over-tired or under the influence of alcohol.

2. Always drive with courtesy towards all other road users, including cyclists and pedestrians. Take great care when passing stopping or stationary tram cars. Watch out for children.

## Railway Warning Signs



### Warning with Three Stripes

and triangle indicating whether or not the level crossing is secured by gates. Put up on right and left-hand side of the road 240 metres in front of the level crossing. If the level crossing in question is secured by gates the first warning sign shows in the triangle a gate instead of an engine.

**Double Striped Warning** is put up on the right and left-hand side 160 metres in front of a level crossing.

**One Striped Warning** is put up on the right and left-hand side 80 metres in front of a level crossing.



## Behaviour on Roads

### Speed

The Highway Code says that drivers must drive at such a speed as to enable them at any time to comply with the Traffic Regulations and draw to a halt in time, when necessary.

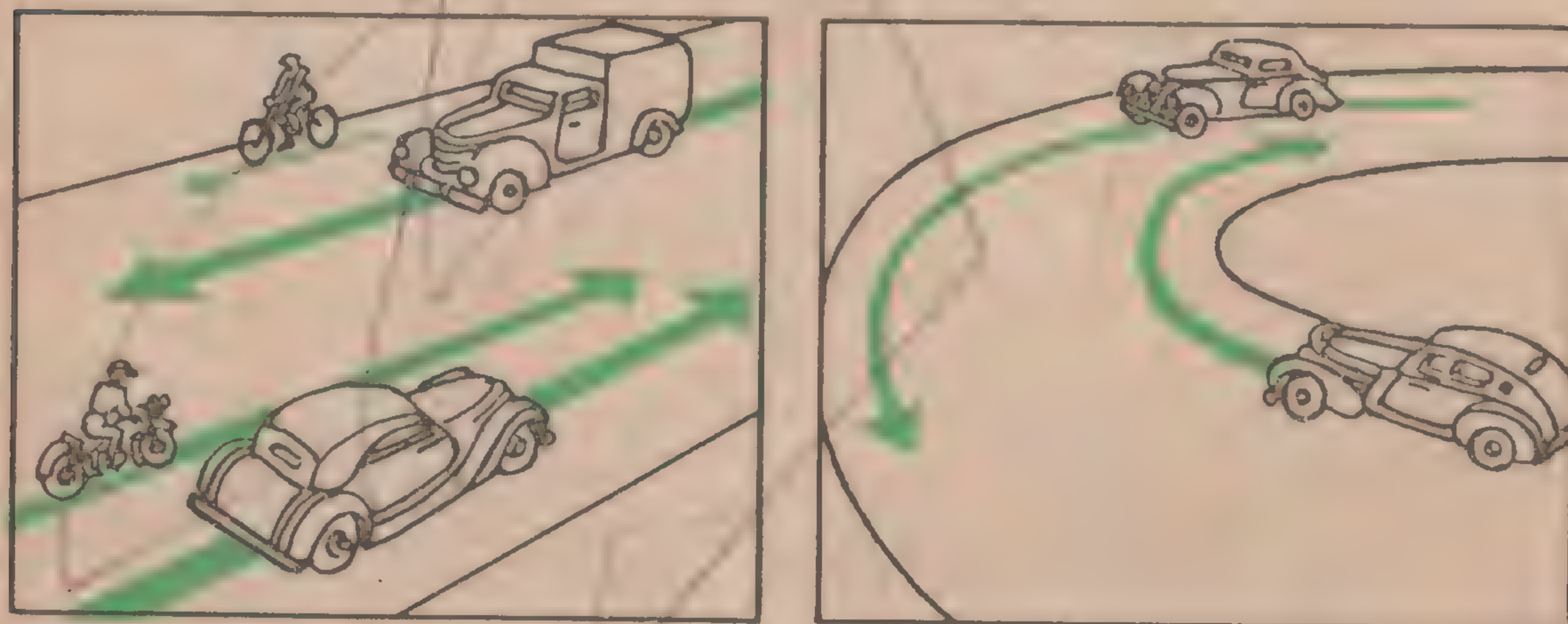
BAOR vehicles must not exceed speed limits laid down for their type. They are not allowed to exceed the speed limit within built-up areas (~~25 mph~~) or the speed limit indicated on kerb-stones or warning signs.

Speed limits refer to good conditions, i.e., dry roads, little traffic and clear vision. If these conditions do not prevail, the indicated speed limit very seldom offers enough safety. It is known that 90% of all accidents could have been prevented. They are caused by vehicles which exceed the safe speed limit for prevailing conditions.

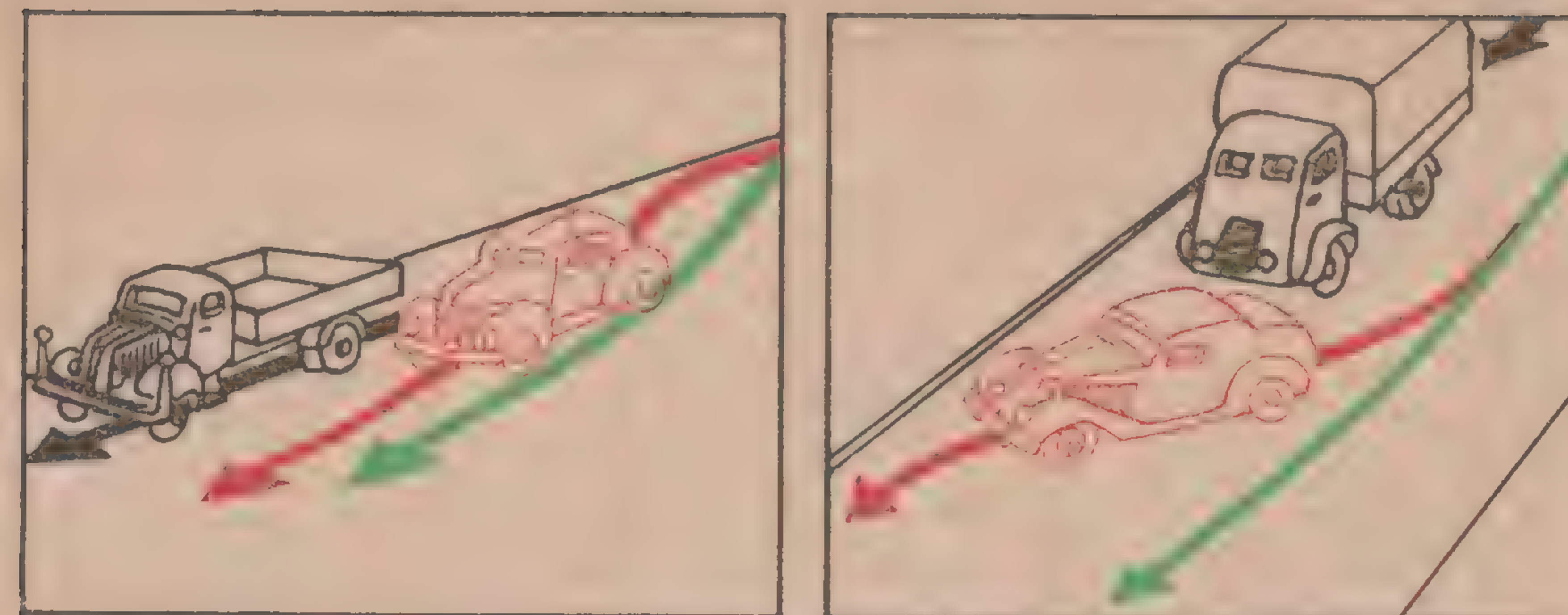
Not the speedy but the cautious driver is the best driver.

### Using the Road

Drivers of vehicles must, so far as circumstances allow, keep



to the right-hand side of the road. Only when overtaking will they be permitted to use the left-hand side of the road. Drivers of slow-moving vehicles must *always* keep close to the right-hand side, also in one-way streets.



### Giving Way and Overtaking

Overtake on the left, except tram cars. The overtaking driver must not drive his vehicle in front of the overtaken one until he is sure that the other vehicle is not endangered. Drivers of overtaken vehicles must not increase their speed when being overtaken and must keep well to the right.

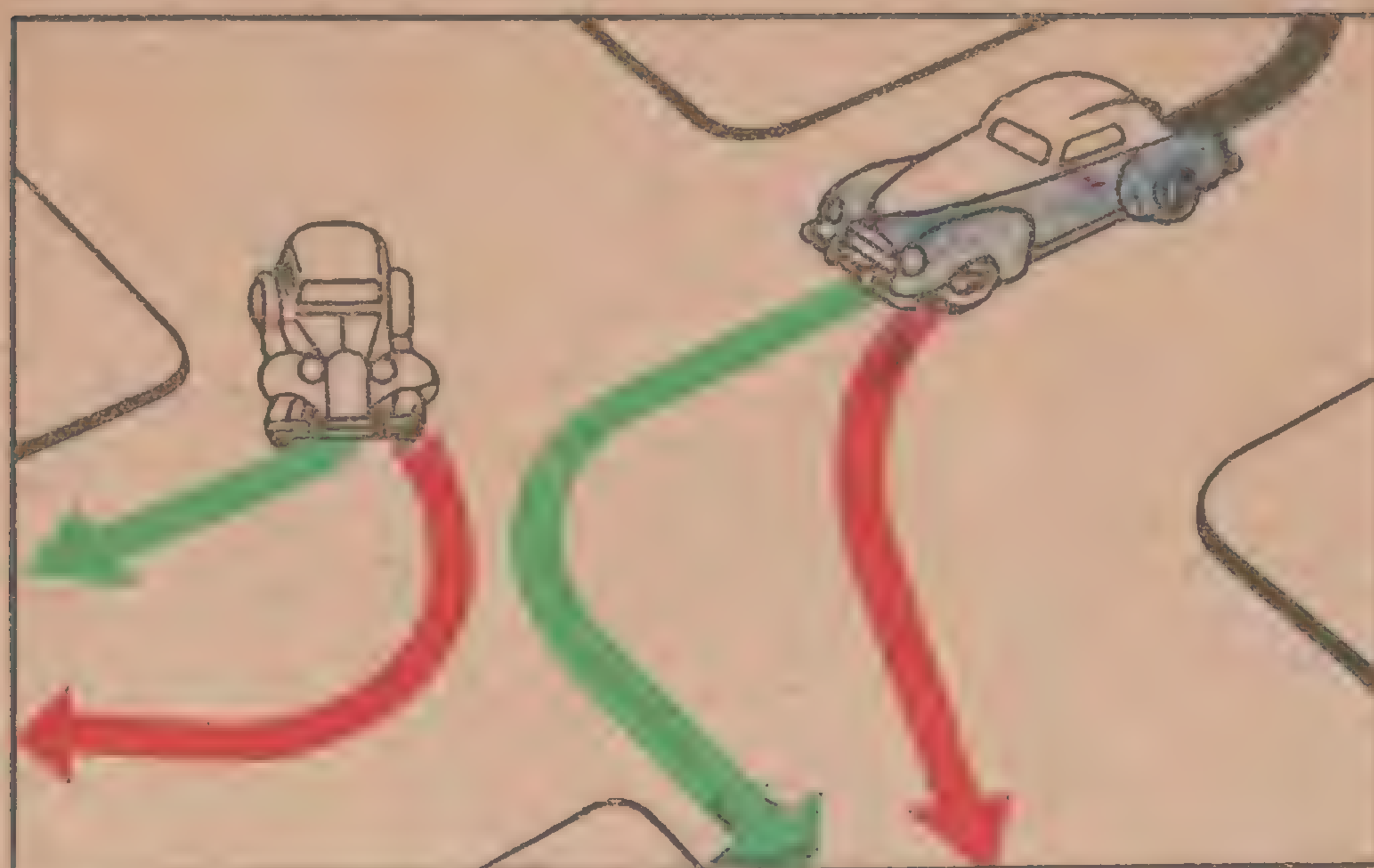


### Indicating Stop or Change of Direction

Drivers intending to stop or change their direction must clearly indicate this in time to other road users. This does not, of course, free them from any necessary caution.

Motor cyclists will indicate by means of hand signals. Motor cars will use their traffic indicators or hand signals.



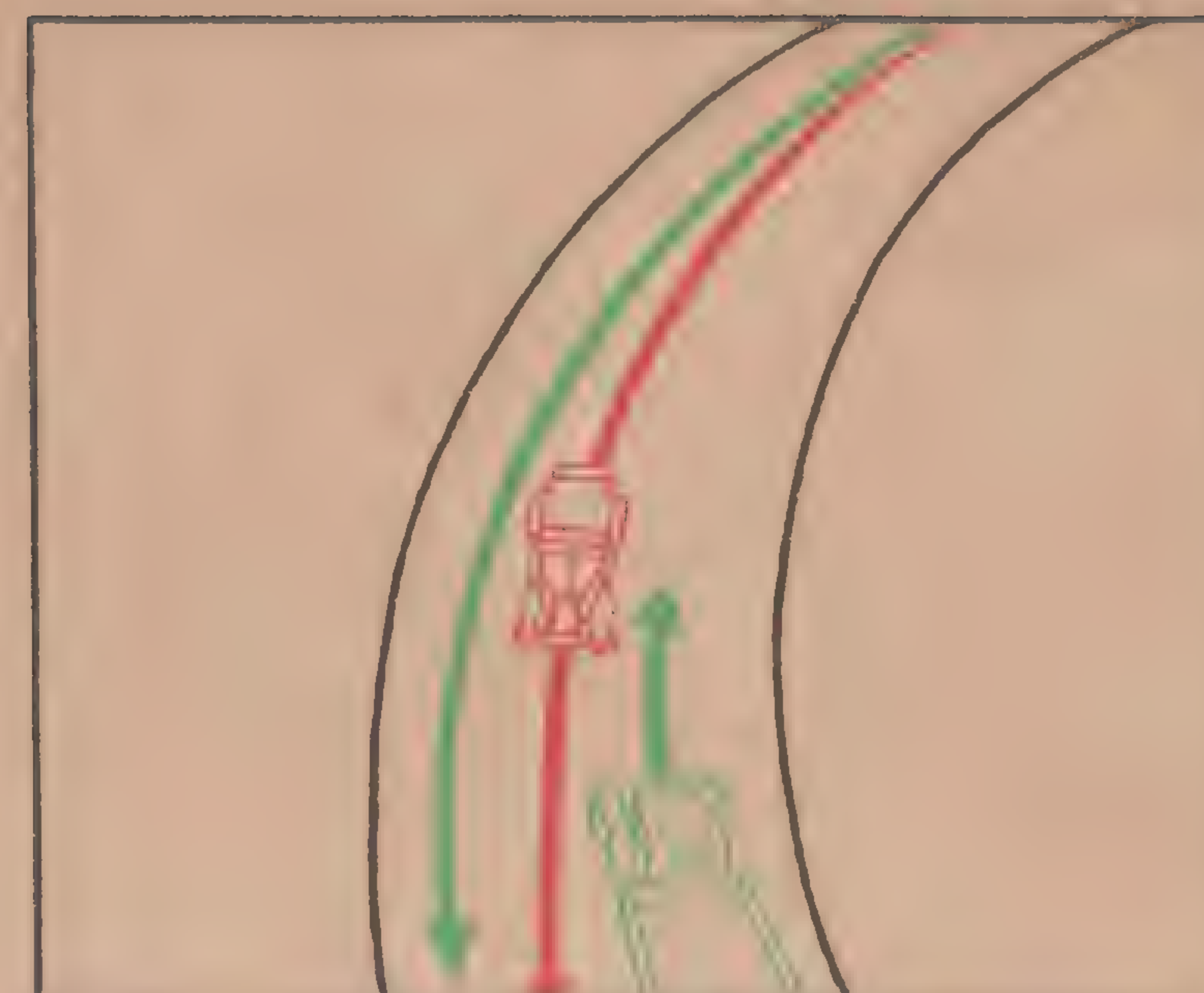


### Turning into another Street

Before turning right, keep to the right. Before turning left, move into the left-hand traffic lane as pictured so that other traffic will NOT be hindered, and take a wide sweep. In streets with tram cars, vehicles turning to the left at cross roads must NOT stop on the rails as this would prevent tram cars proceeding straight ahead. The traffic indicator must be operated in time so that other road users may react accordingly. Do not wait until the last moment.



Do NOT drive across the front of, but behind, pedestrians. A sudden horn blast may frighten them. When necessary, use the horn to warn them when some distance away. Act with consideration.



In dangerous places — in the above picture a bend — it is necessary to drive slowly and carefully. Keep well to the right. It is forbidden to overtake.



### Giving Way

When driving in the mountains or narrow streets, the car which can most conveniently give way must do so. In the picture, the car proceeding down hill must give way because the other car is on its correct side of the road.

If a vehicle meets a train or tram car on rails it may have to give way by moving to the left if there is no room on the right.





### Giving Warning Signals

Warning signals must not be given if animals might be frightened.

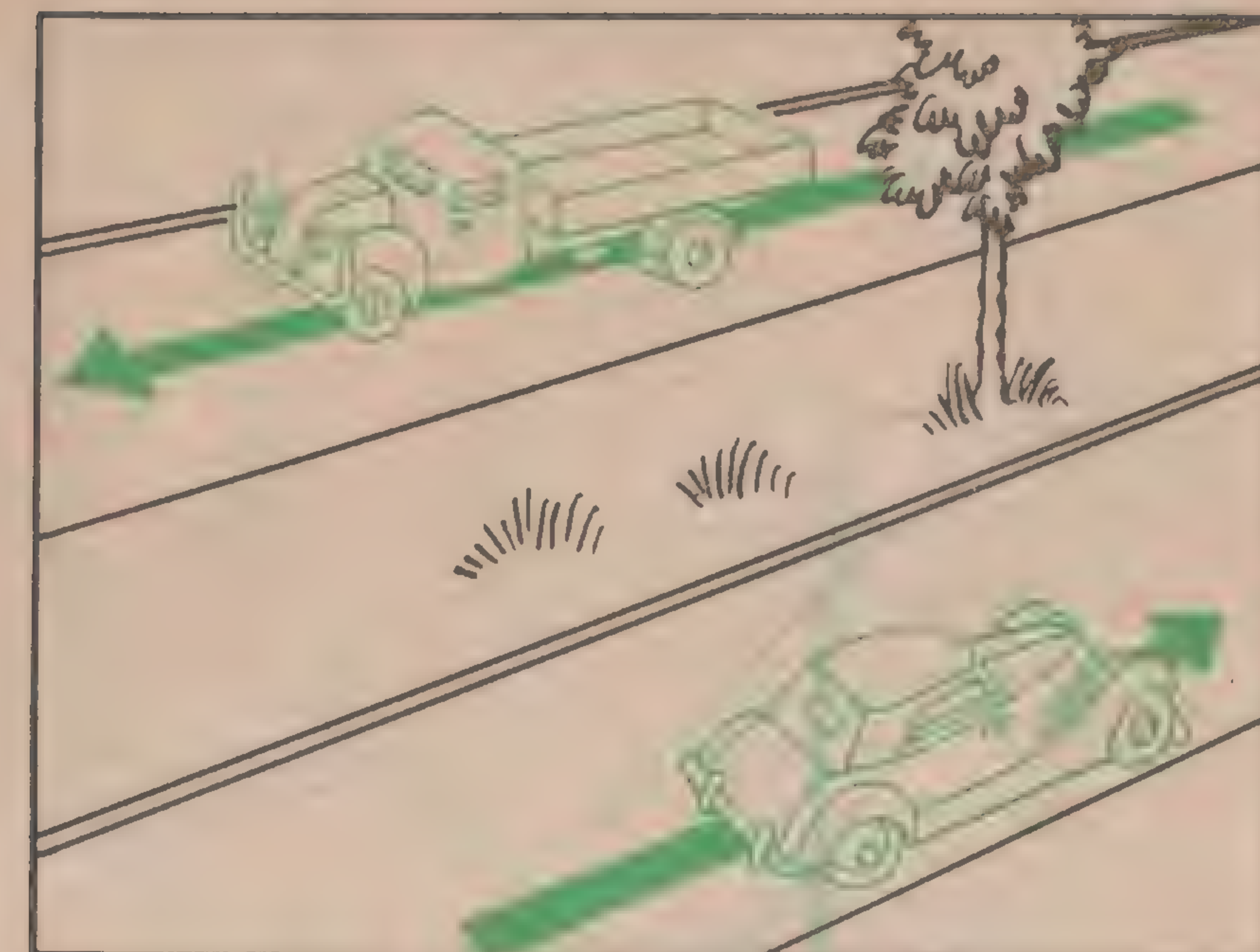
Warnings should be given in order to draw the attention of endangered road users to the approaching vehicle, i.e., whenever required by safety. In place of horn signals, lamp signals may be more satisfactory at dusk and at night. At dusk, head lamps may be switched on momentarily. At night, when overtaking or at cross roads, warning may be given by dimming or dipping the head lamps a few times.



### Caution when having taken Alcohol

Driving when under the influence of drink is a very serious offence under both civil and military law.

Drink makes drivers reckless, and later on sleepy. Scientific tests show that a person's reactions to an emergency are slowed down considerably by small quantities of alcohol.



### Streets with Double Carriage Way

In these streets vehicles must use the carriage way lying on the right-hand side of the intended direction. In this case, the carriage way in the prescribed direction will be a one-way street.

If there is beside the metalled carriage way an unmetalled road the latter will be for the use of horse traffic, parking, etc.



### Caution ! Road Repairs !

Warning boards in front of road repairs.

Lit by red lamps during night.

Slow down !

Drive very carefully !





## Overtaking

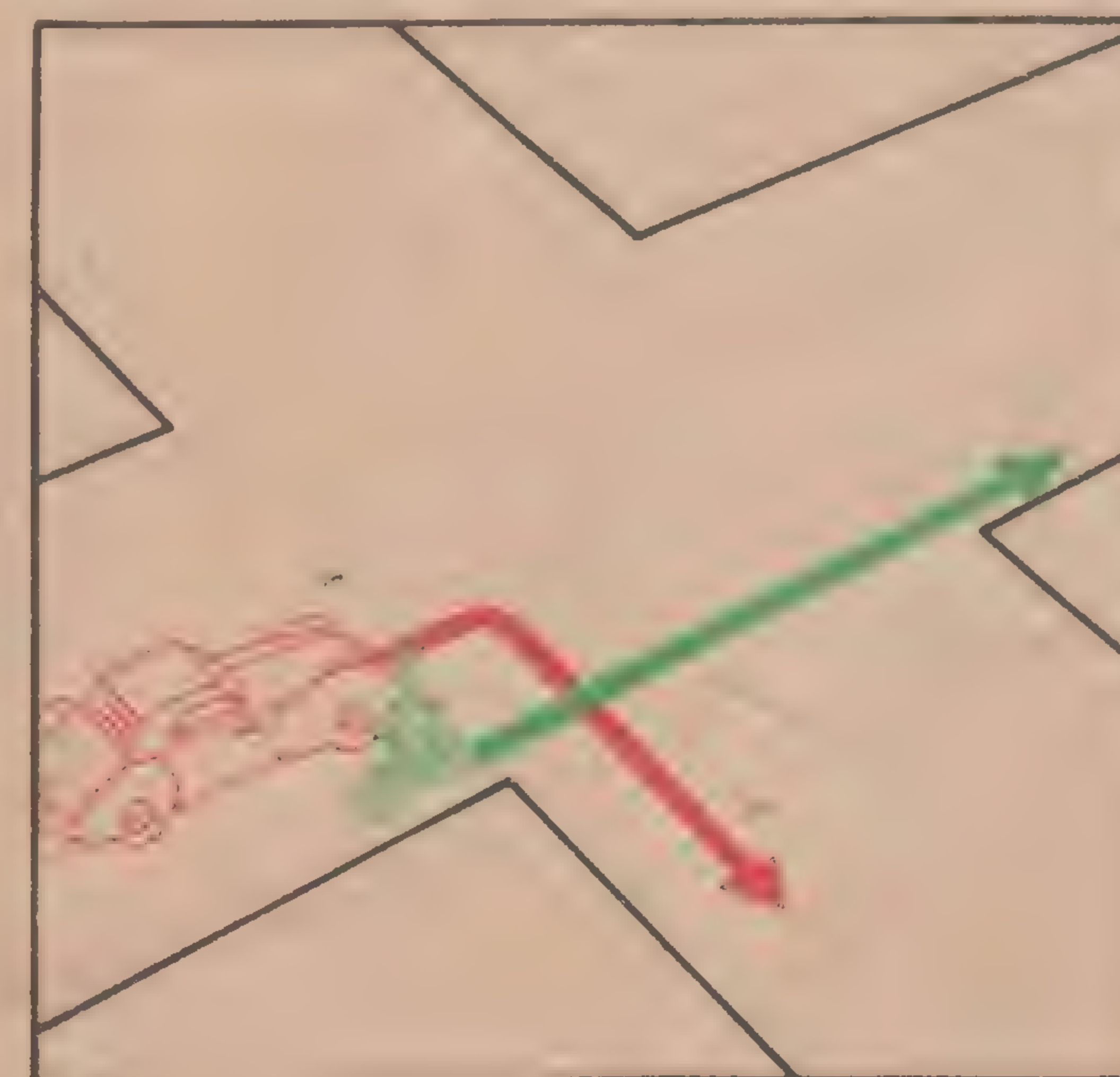
Overtaking is forbidden in dangerous spots such as bends, cross roads, narrow streets, etc.



It is always dangerous to overtake on humps or crests of hills.

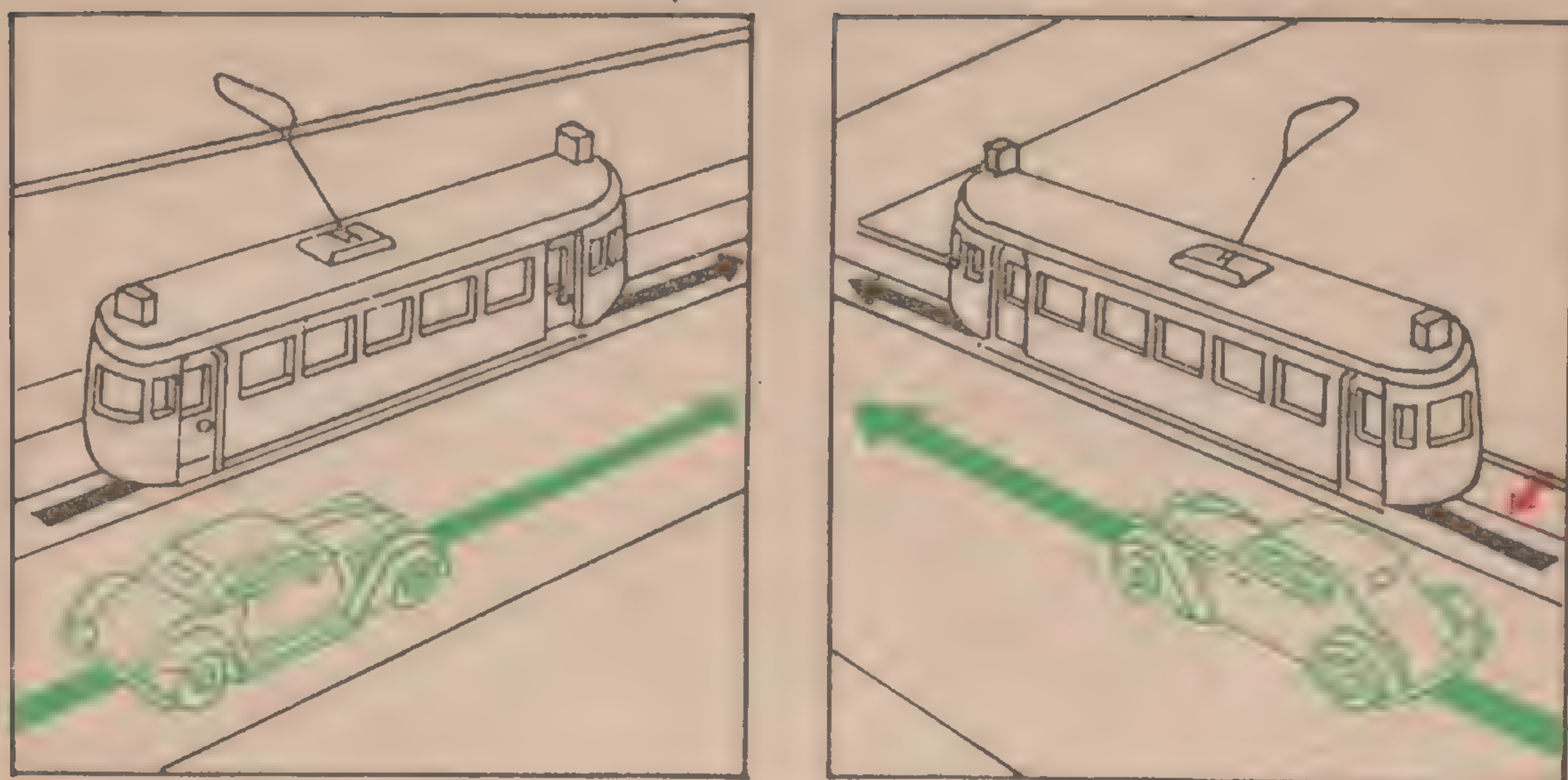


It is forbidden to overtake at cross roads.



Road users must not be overtaken just before turning into a side street. Stay behind them and then turn.



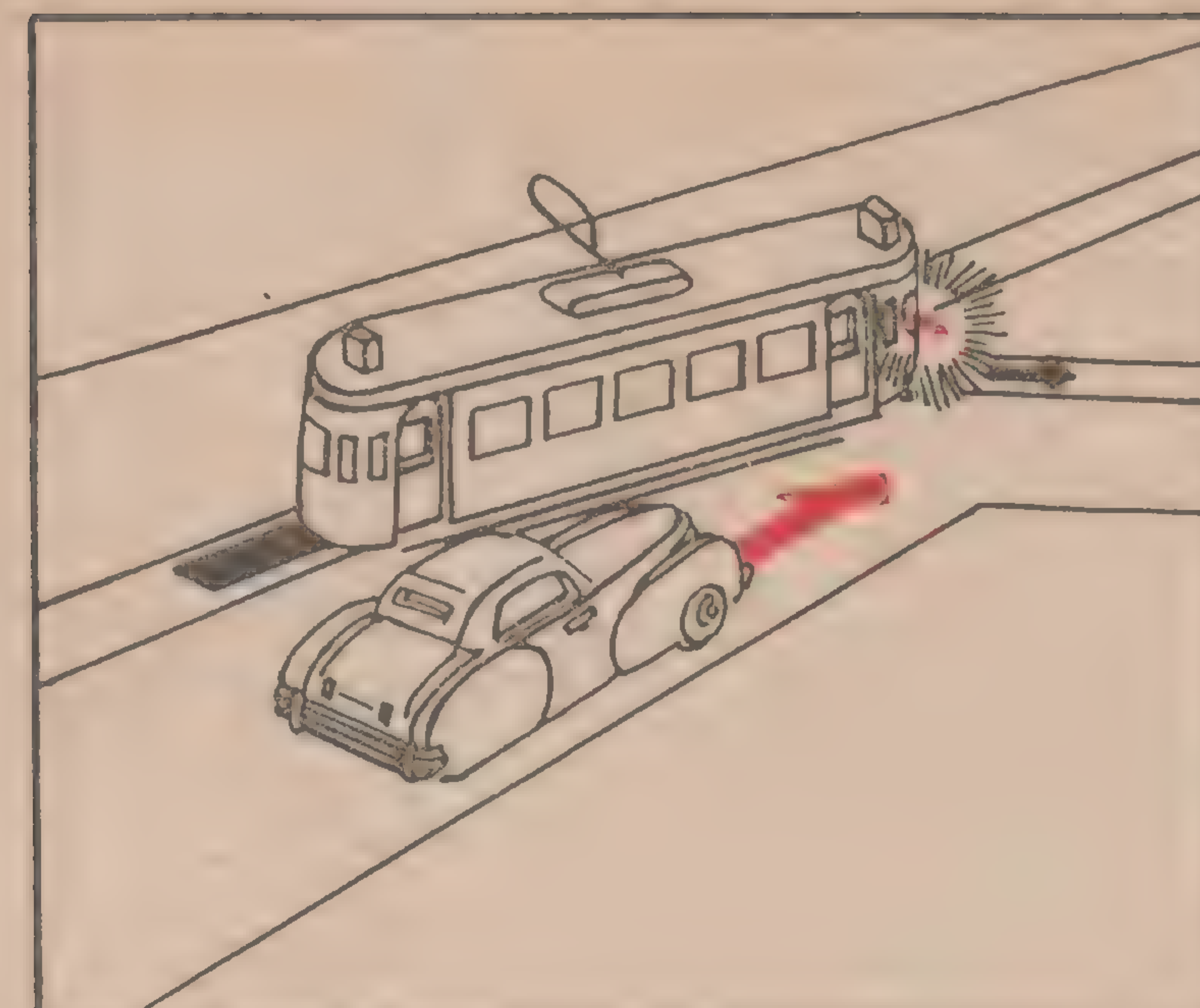


Trams must normally be overtaken only on the right-hand side. It is forbidden to overtake on the left-hand side even if the road is blocked.

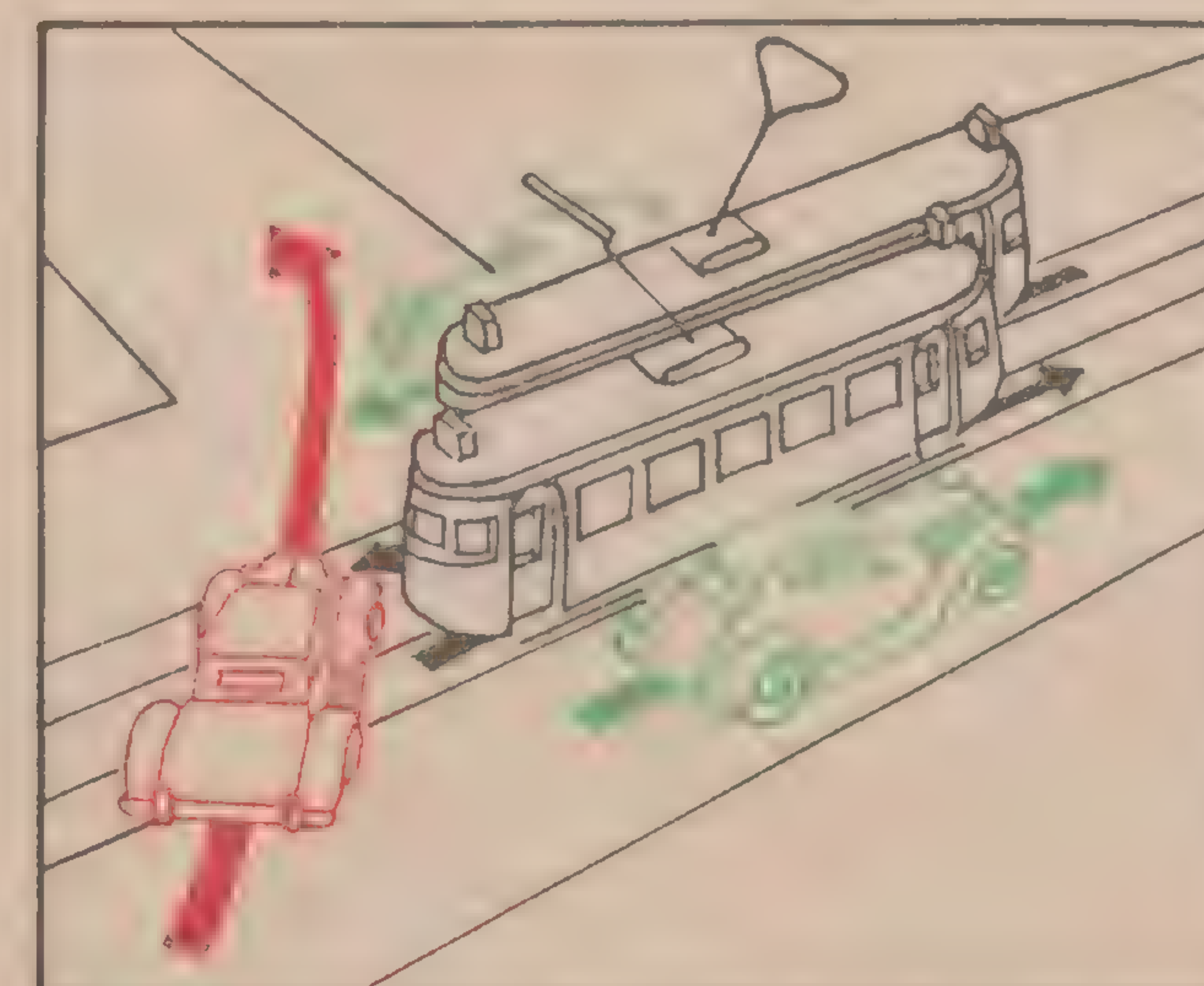
Trams may be overtaken on the left-hand side if, as shown above, the space for overtaking on the right-hand side is too narrow.



In one-way streets trams may be overtaken on the right as well as on the left-hand side.



Trams when turning to the side will give a light signal. Be careful when overtaking !



Do not turn to the side immediately behind a tram. Wait until your view is clear.

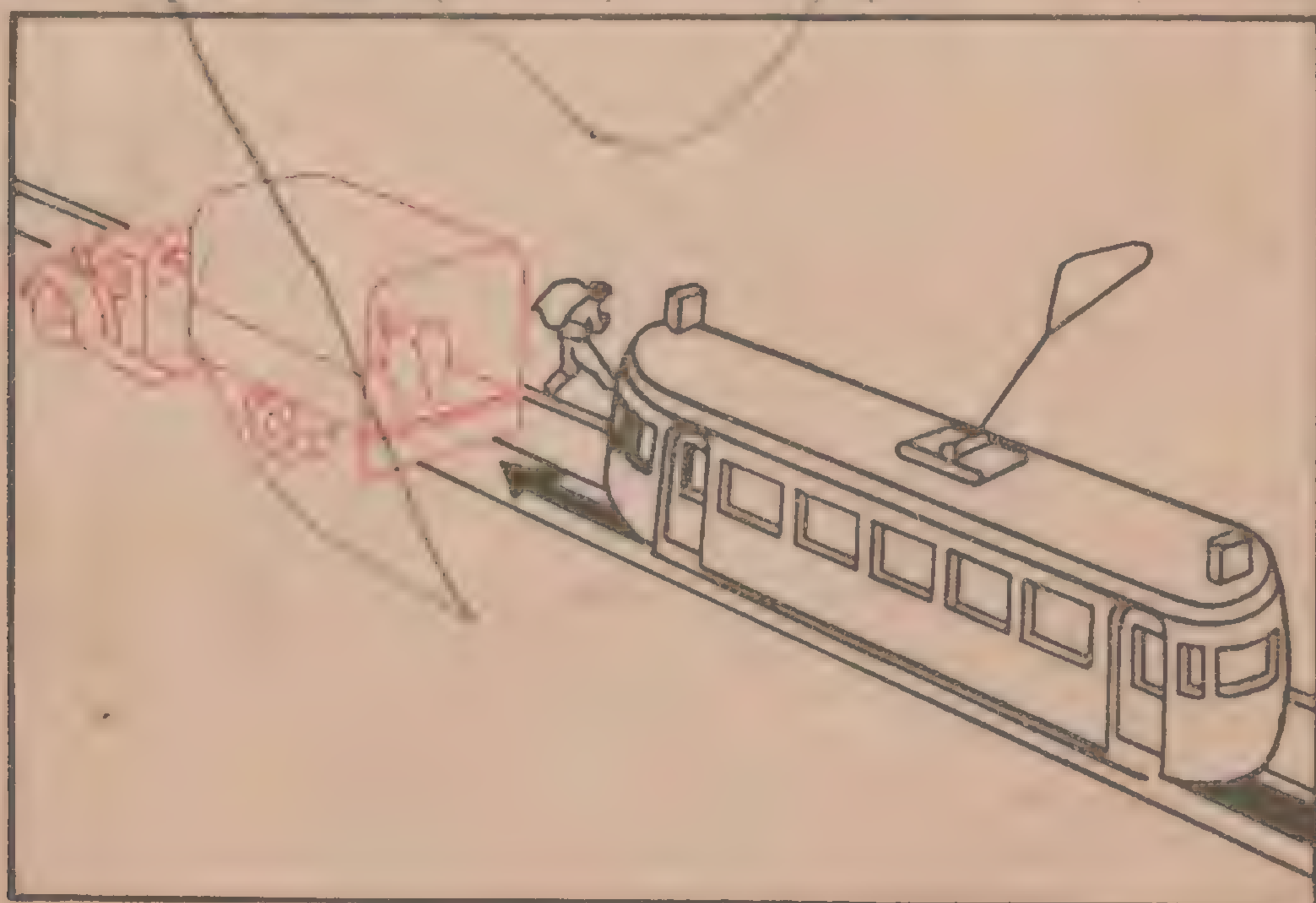




When passengers alight from or board tram cars, etc., drivers must slow down, and pass by with caution so that the passengers are not endangered. Stop if necessary. Be considerate and courteous.

### Loading and Unloading

Vehicles must be loaded and unloaded only where this is possible without hindering other road users.



It is forbidden to park on railway or tramway lines.

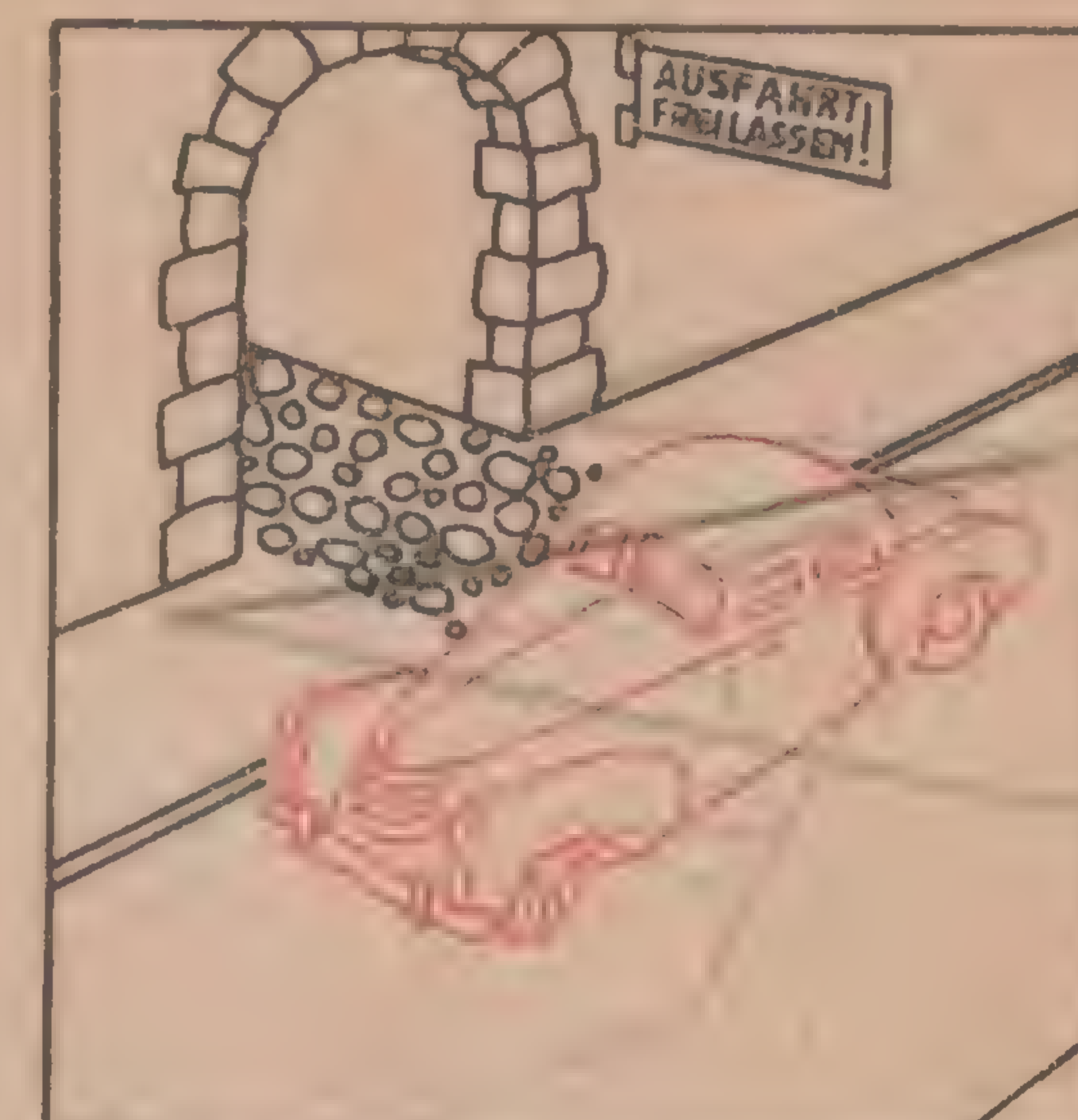
## Parking Vehicles

The driver of a vehicle must stop in such a way as not to hinder or endanger traffic.

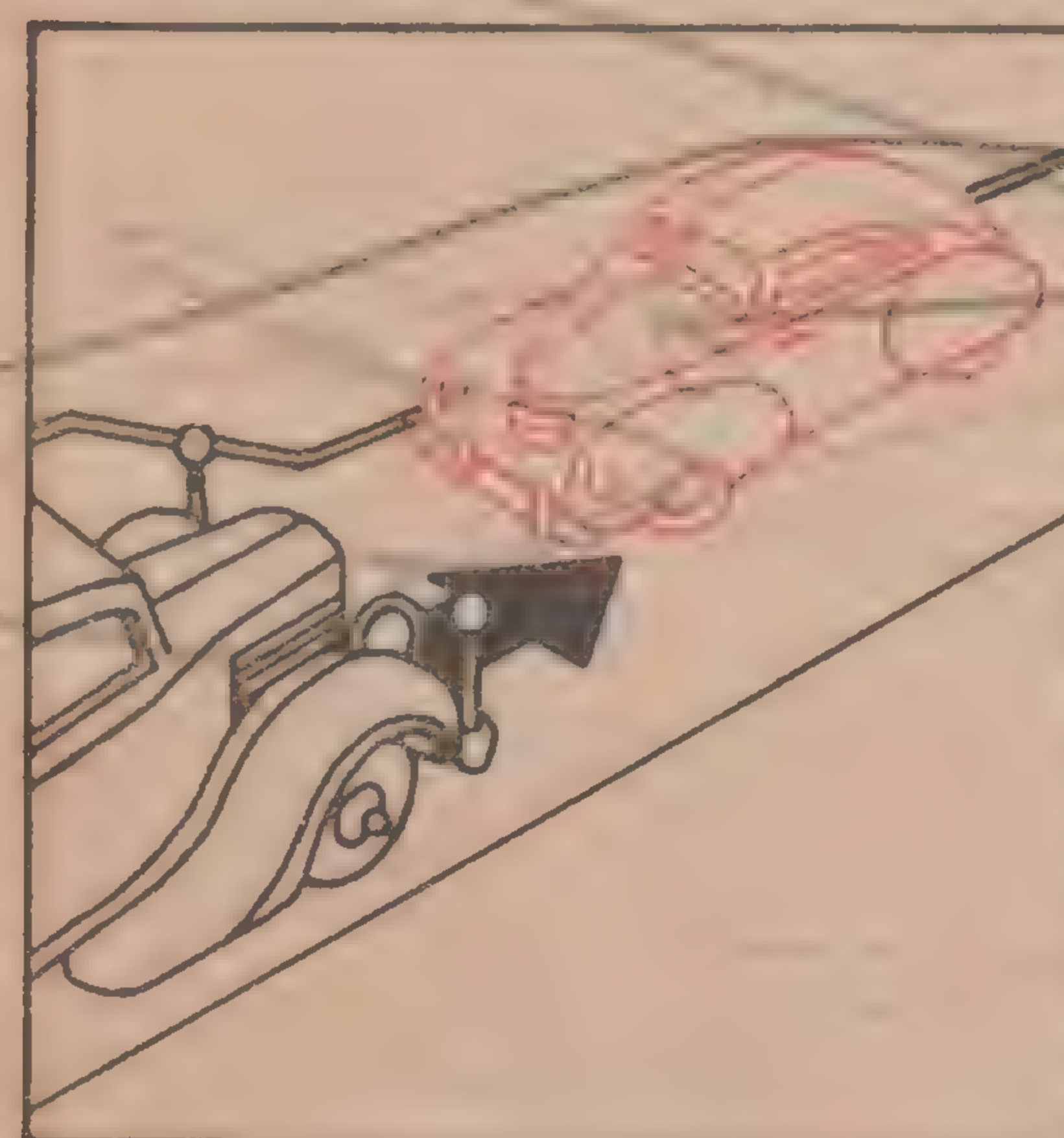
Except in one-way streets, vehicles must stop only on the right-hand side of the road in the driving direction.



It is forbidden to park vehicles on cross roads. They must be more than 10 metres (yards) from the street corner.



It is forbidden to park vehicles in front of exits.

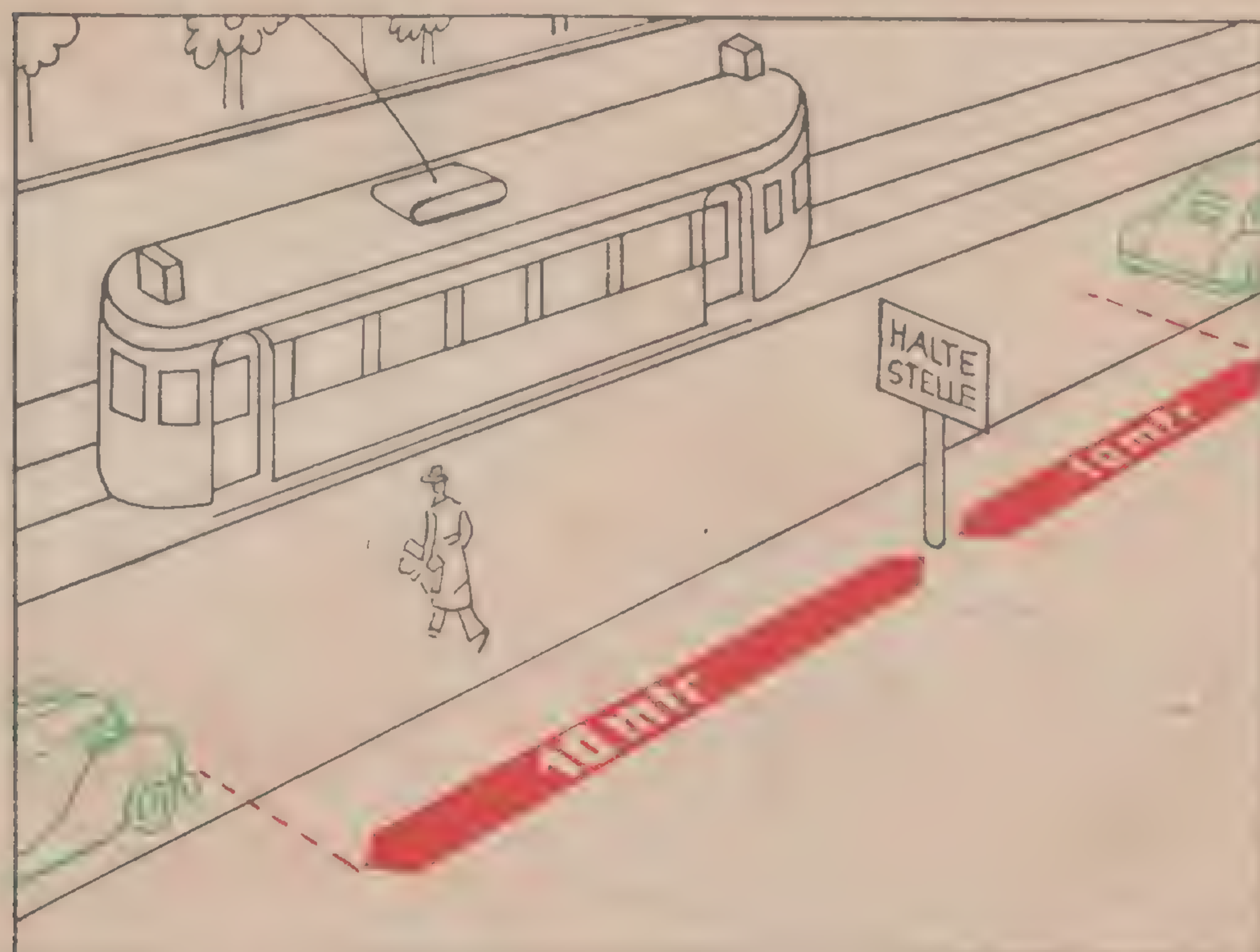


It is forbidden to park vehicles in narrow streets and on bends. Traffic will be hindered.



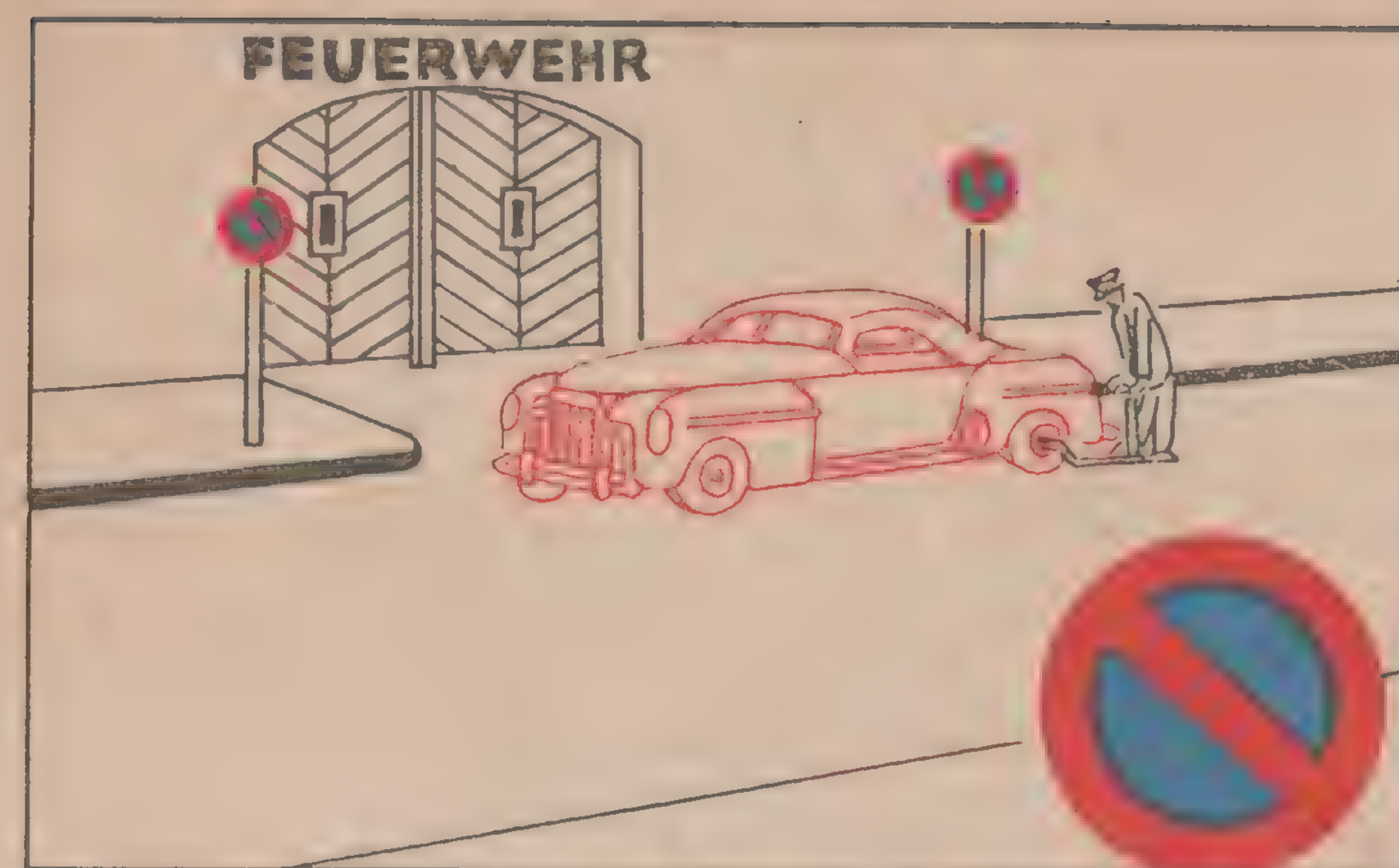


It is forbidden to park vehicles near traffic islands. Pass by traffic islands bearing directing arrows on the right-hand side.

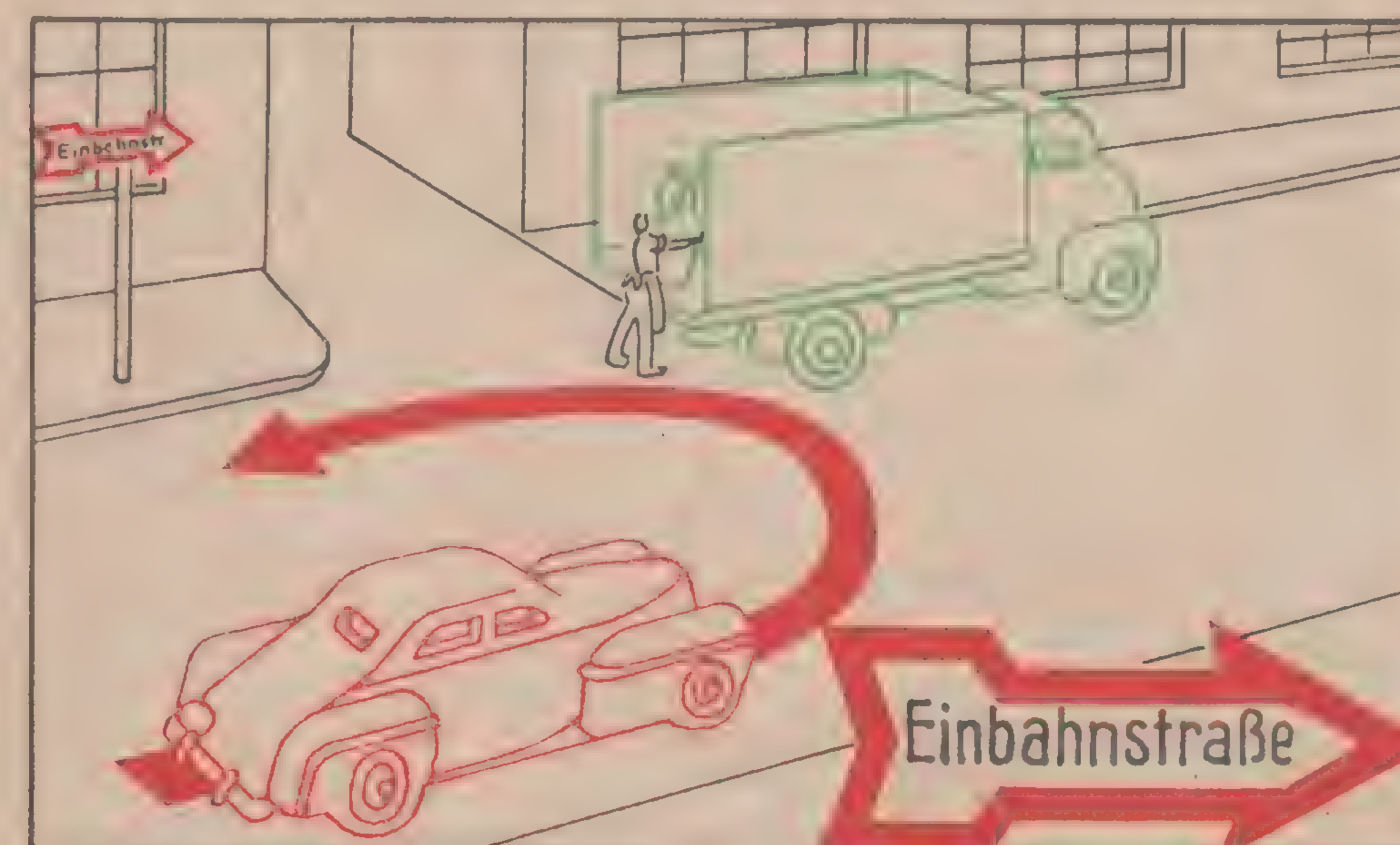


### Tram Stops

It is forbidden to park at tram and bus stops. Minimum distance from stop is 10 metres.



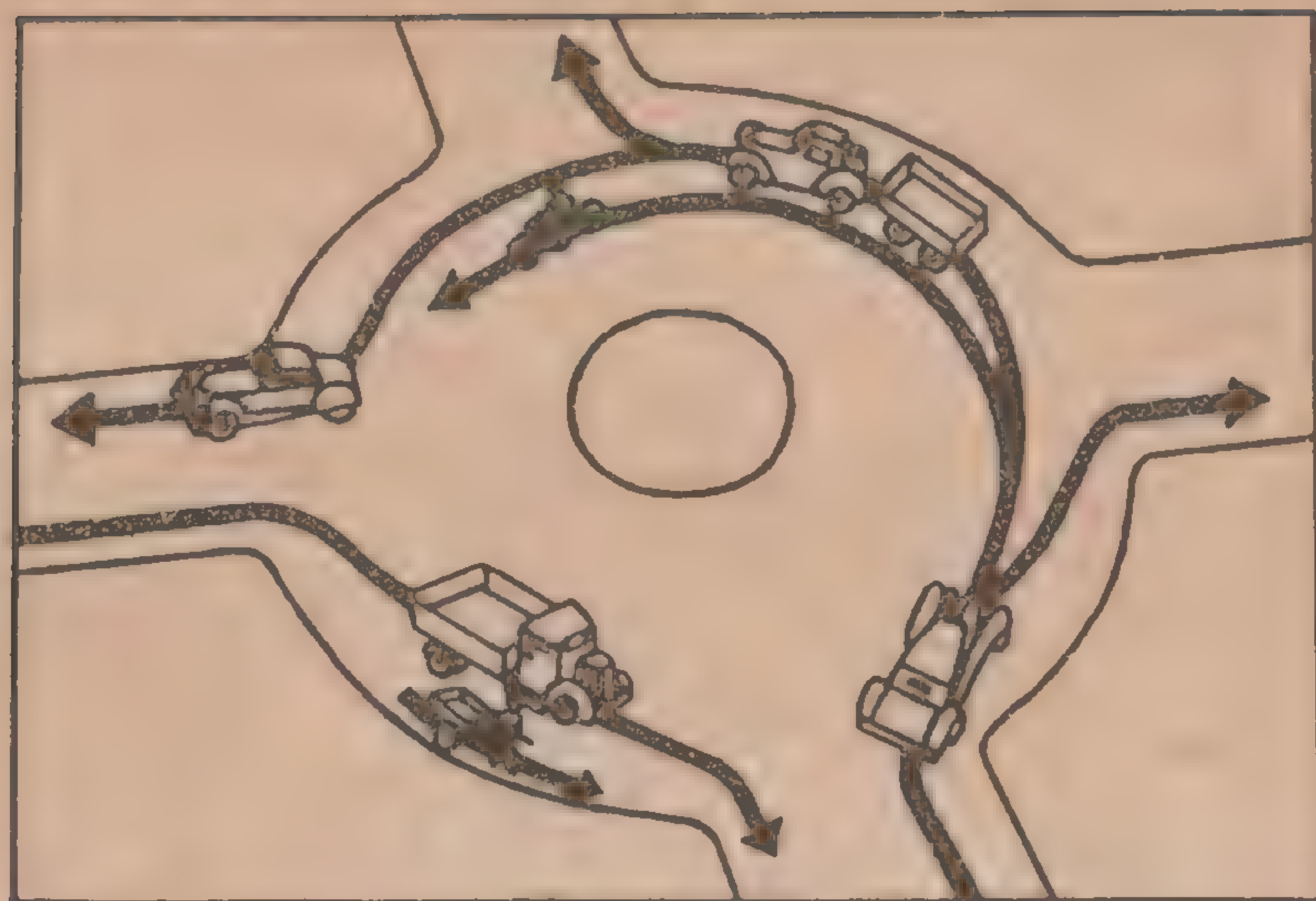
It is forbidden to stop where a sign forbidding stopping is put up, in such places as exits for fire brigades, narrow streets, etc. Where signs indicate that parking is forbidden, vehicles may stop briefly for persons to get in and out, and for loading and unloading. Parking is, however, forbidden. Note, therefore, the difference between 'stopping forbidden' and 'parking forbidden'.



### One-way Streets

It is forbidden to back or turn in these streets. It is permitted to stop on both sides of the street.

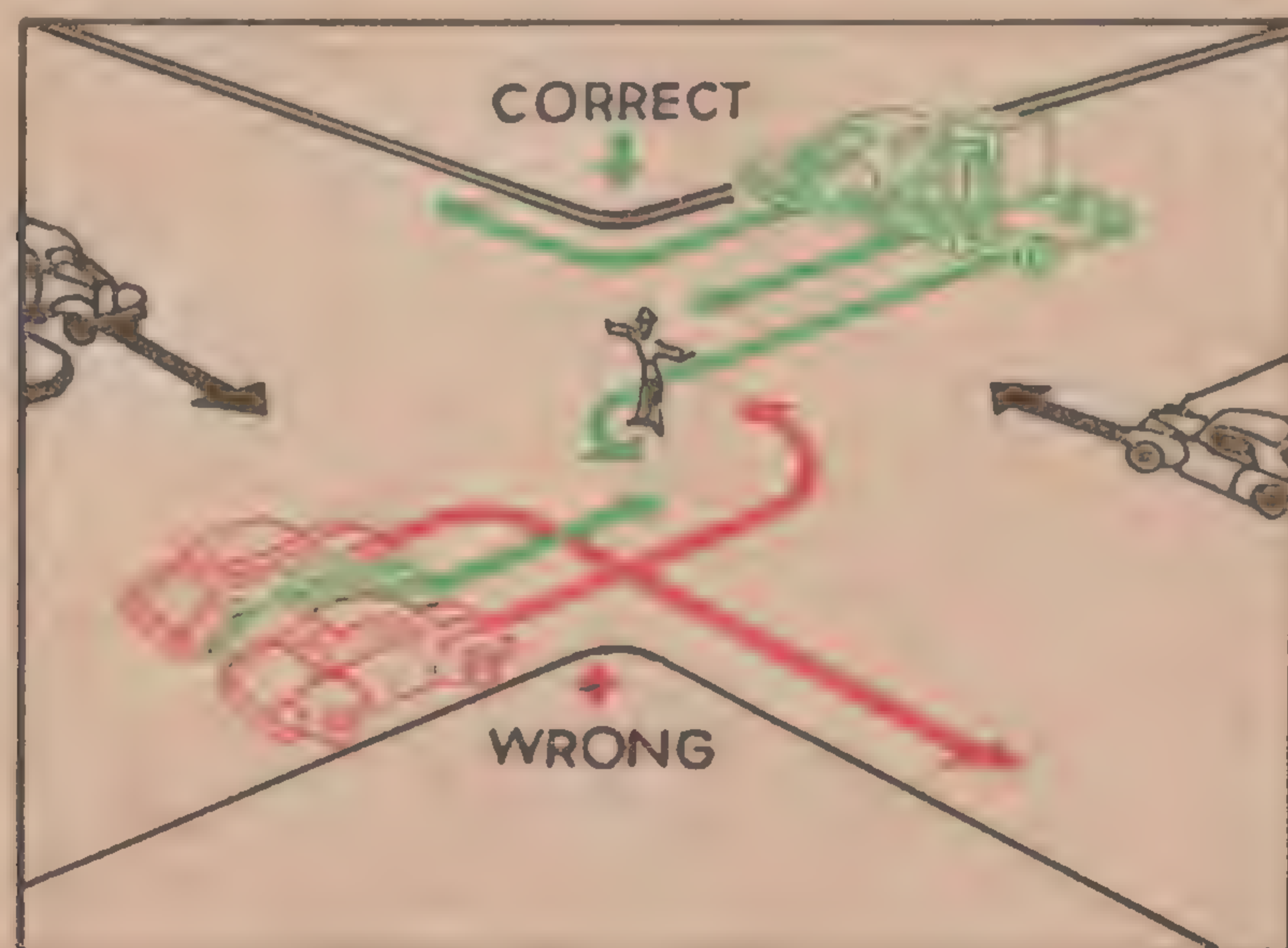




### Round-about Traffic

In places with round-about traffic all vehicles must always keep to the right. Slow moving vehicles must keep sharp to the right.

The left-hand side of the road must not be used except when overtaking. After having overtaken, keep again to the right. When leaving the round-about, the indicator must be shown or signal made.



When stopping in front of cross roads take care that, when turning to the right, the right-hand traffic lane is used. If turning to the left, use the left-hand lane, as shown in the picture. The vehicles in red are wrong and will hinder traffic.

### Major and Minor Road Crossings



denotes that you are on a minor road and must give way to traffic on the major road ahead. Slow down and stop if necessary. The car must give way.



means the same except that you *must* stop (before the red line if there is one).





denotes that you are on a major road and have right of way at the cross roads ahead. Caution must still be exercised in case a vehicle on the minor road may have failed to see its sign.

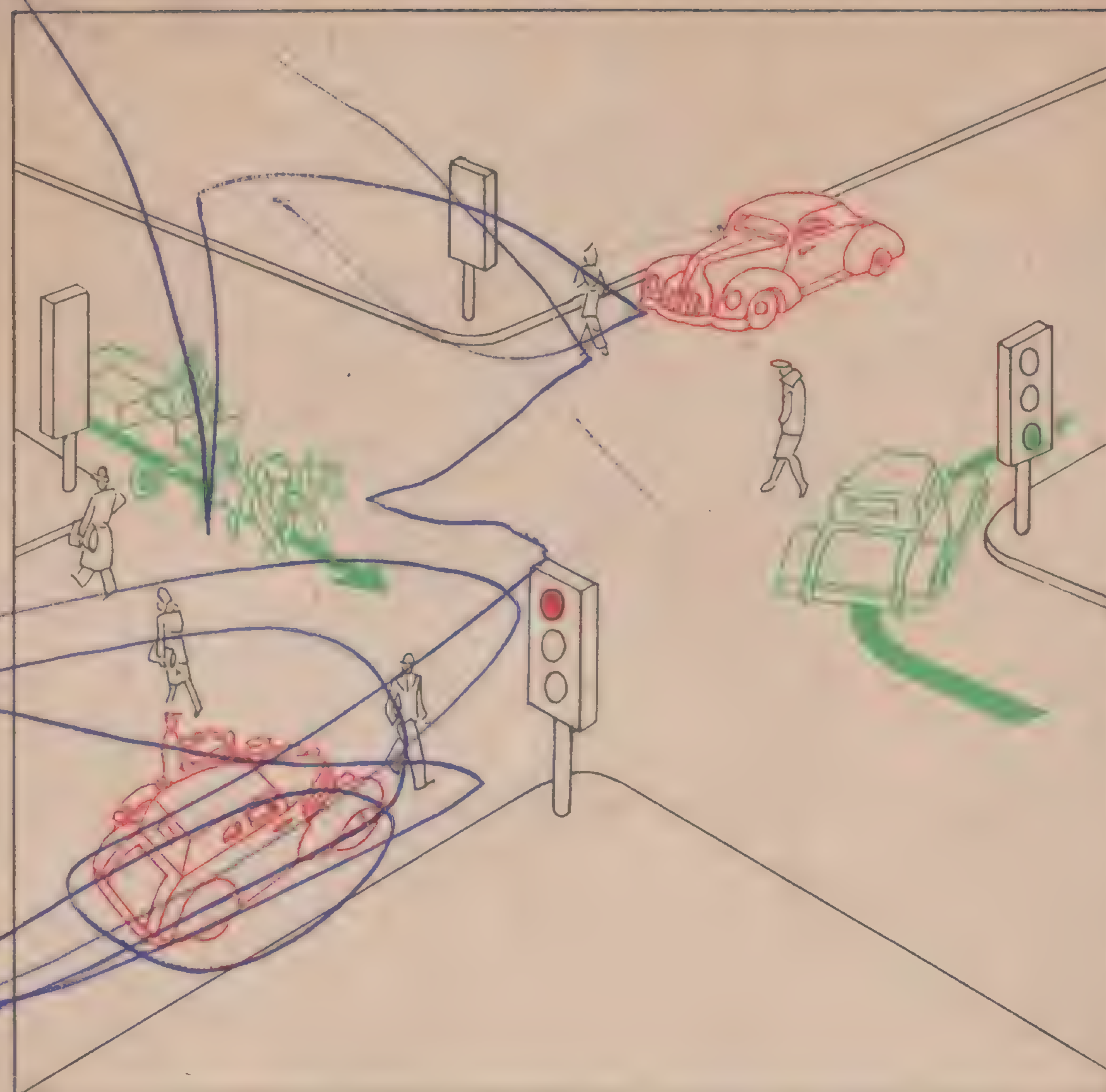
### Cross Roads of equal priority



At cross roads of equal priority, i.e., which are not signed as major or minor roads, the vehicle approaching from the right has right of way. This rule does not apply if one vehicle is already on the crossing.

Exercise caution even if you have the right of way as there may be some inexperienced drivers who do not know this rule.

Remember! Give way to traffic approaching from your right!



### Cross Roads with Traffic Lights standing at the side of Streets

Green = Free!

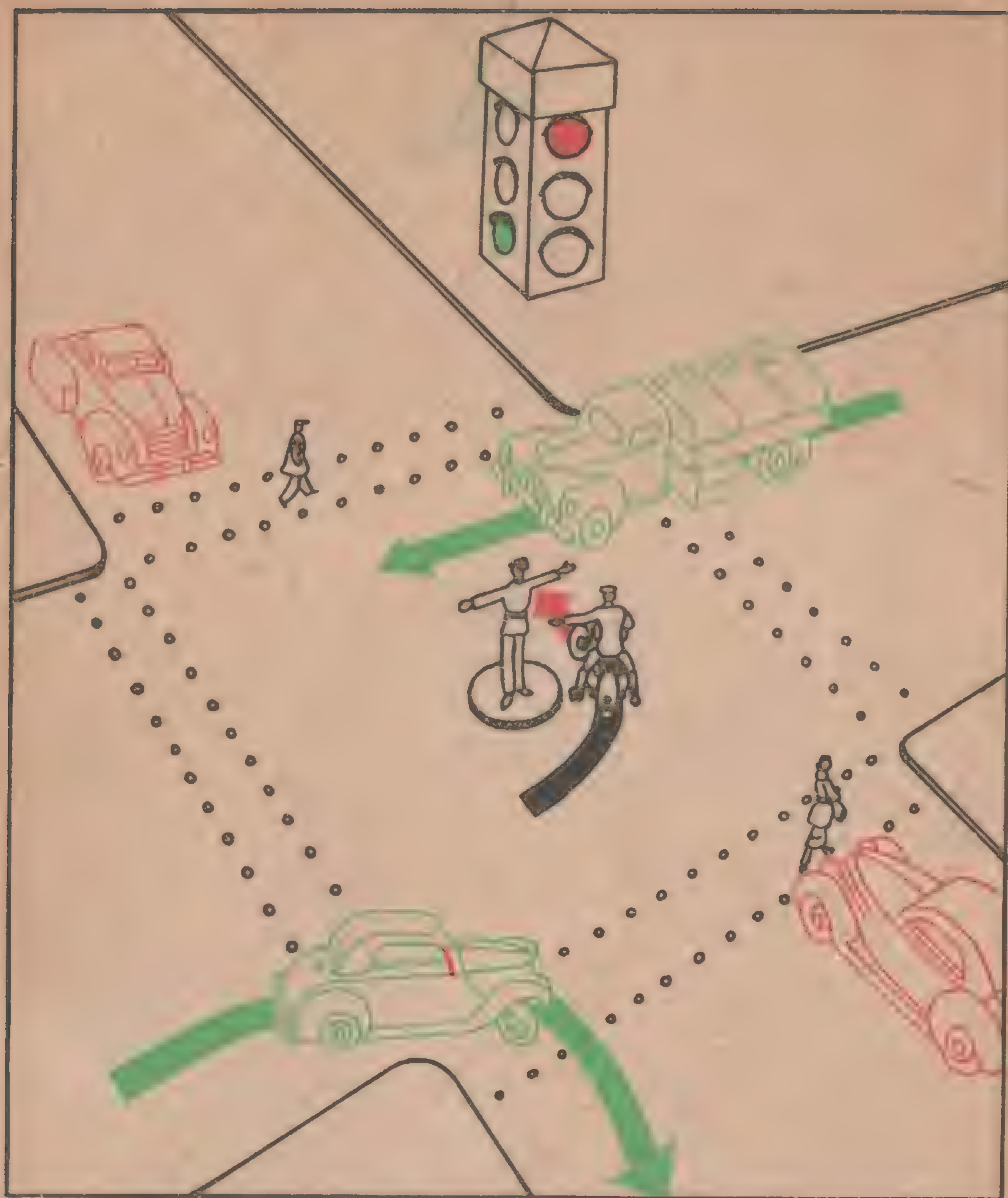
Yellow = Warning. Lights changing. Prepare to start or stop!

Red = Stop!

### Turning to the Left

When 'Street Free' is given, a car may also turn to the left provided that road users driving in the opposite direction are not endangered. If there is oncoming traffic, stop in the middle of the cross roads (not on the rails) until the street is free.





Green light or the policeman waving traffic on means: 'Street Free' in that direction. When desiring to turn to the left, stop in the middle of the cross roads (Note motor cycle in picture). The turn may be made if traffic is not endangered.. Do not hinder traffic.

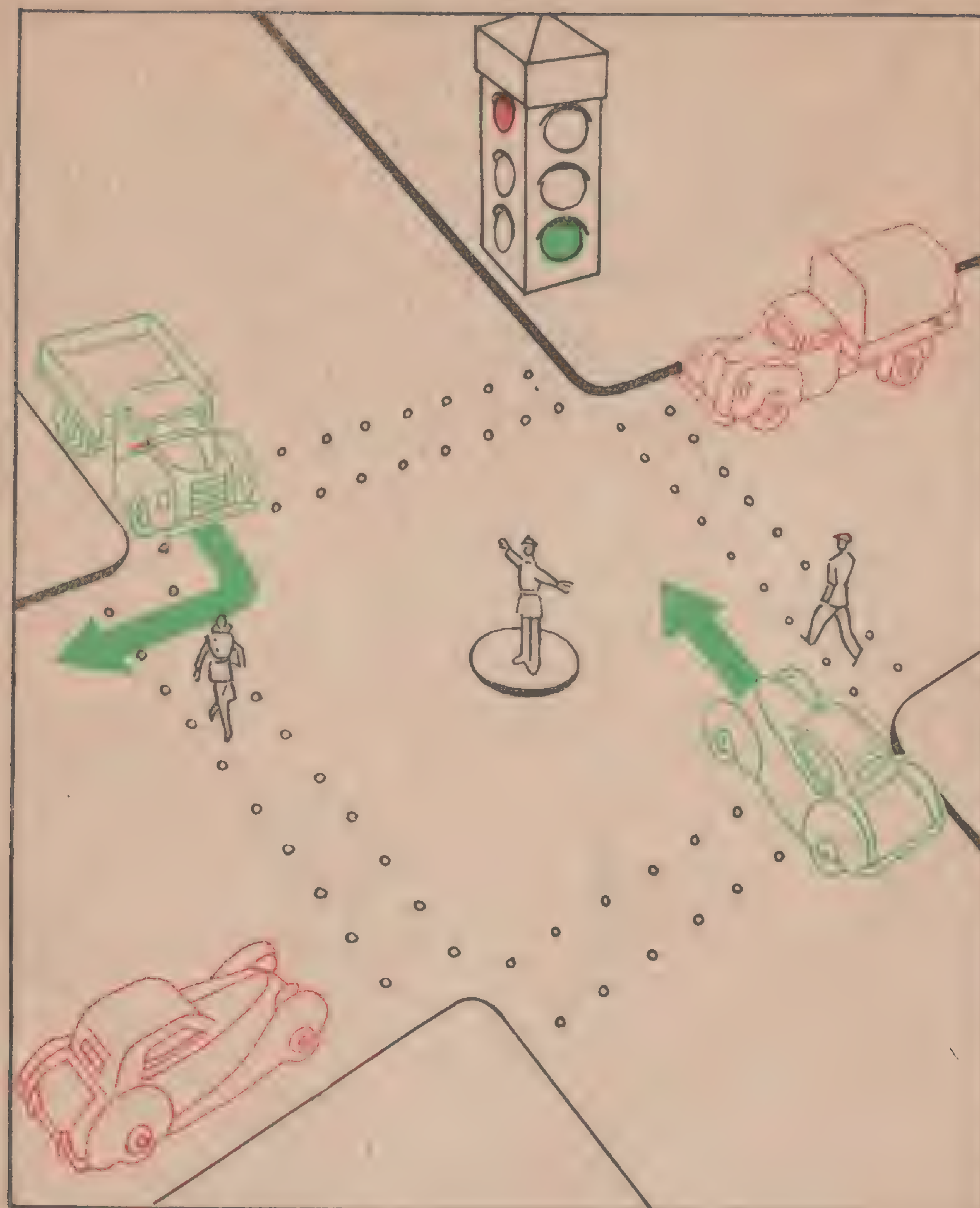


Yellow light or raised arm of policeman means: 'Cross road Free' to all vehicles actually on the crossing, which must be cleared.

Yellow following red means: 'Attention!' Get ready for starting as green will follow!

Yellow following green means: 'Stop' as red will follow!





### Cross Roads with Traffic Lights and Police

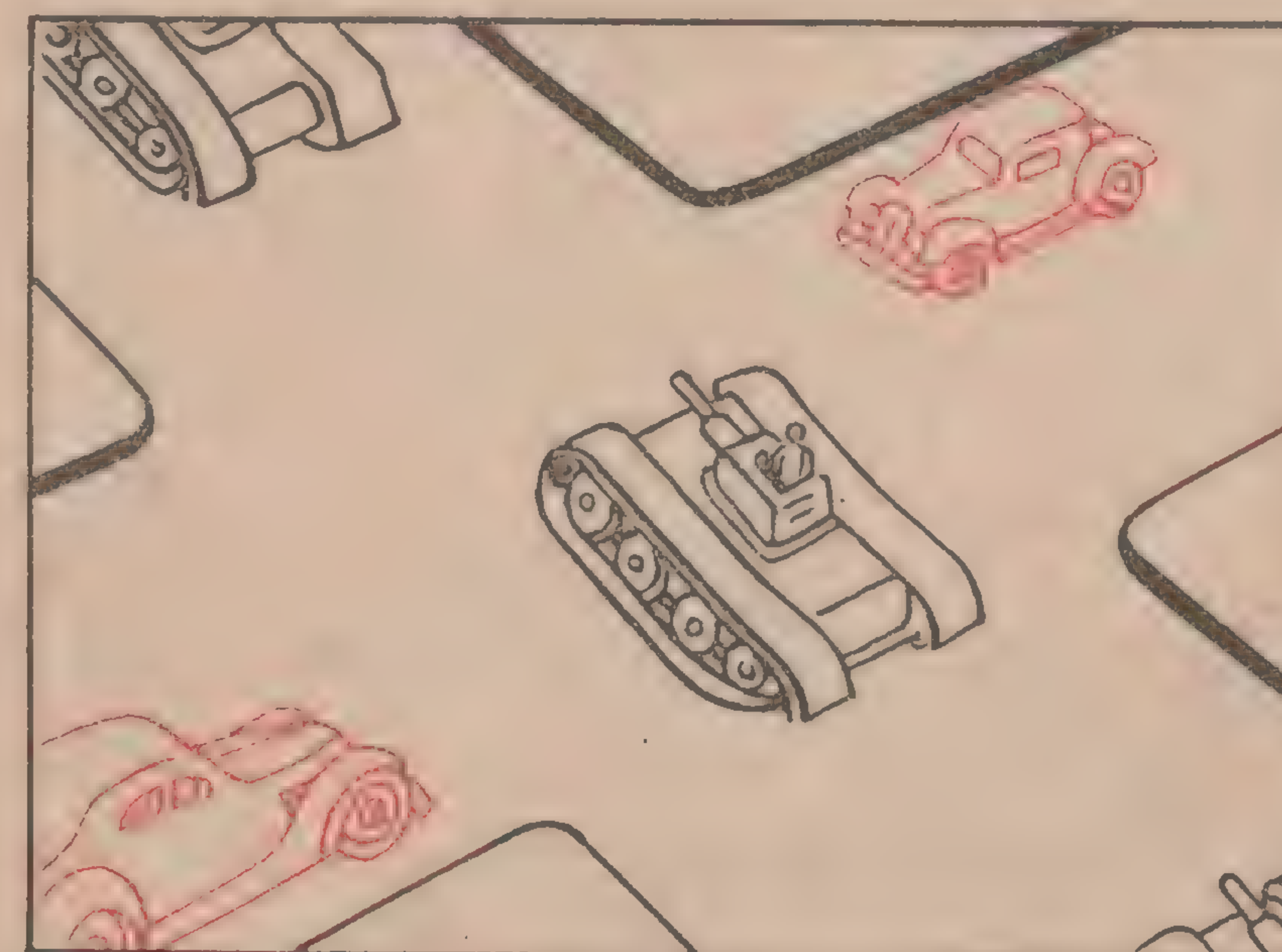
Red light or the policeman stretching out his arms sideways rectangularly to the traffic means: 'Stop!'

**Other Traffic Signs** (so-called "clocks" suspended over the middle of cross roads)

These "clocks" are provided with hands (one on each side) which point to either green, yellow or red. The indicated colours have the same meaning as those of the other traffic lights.



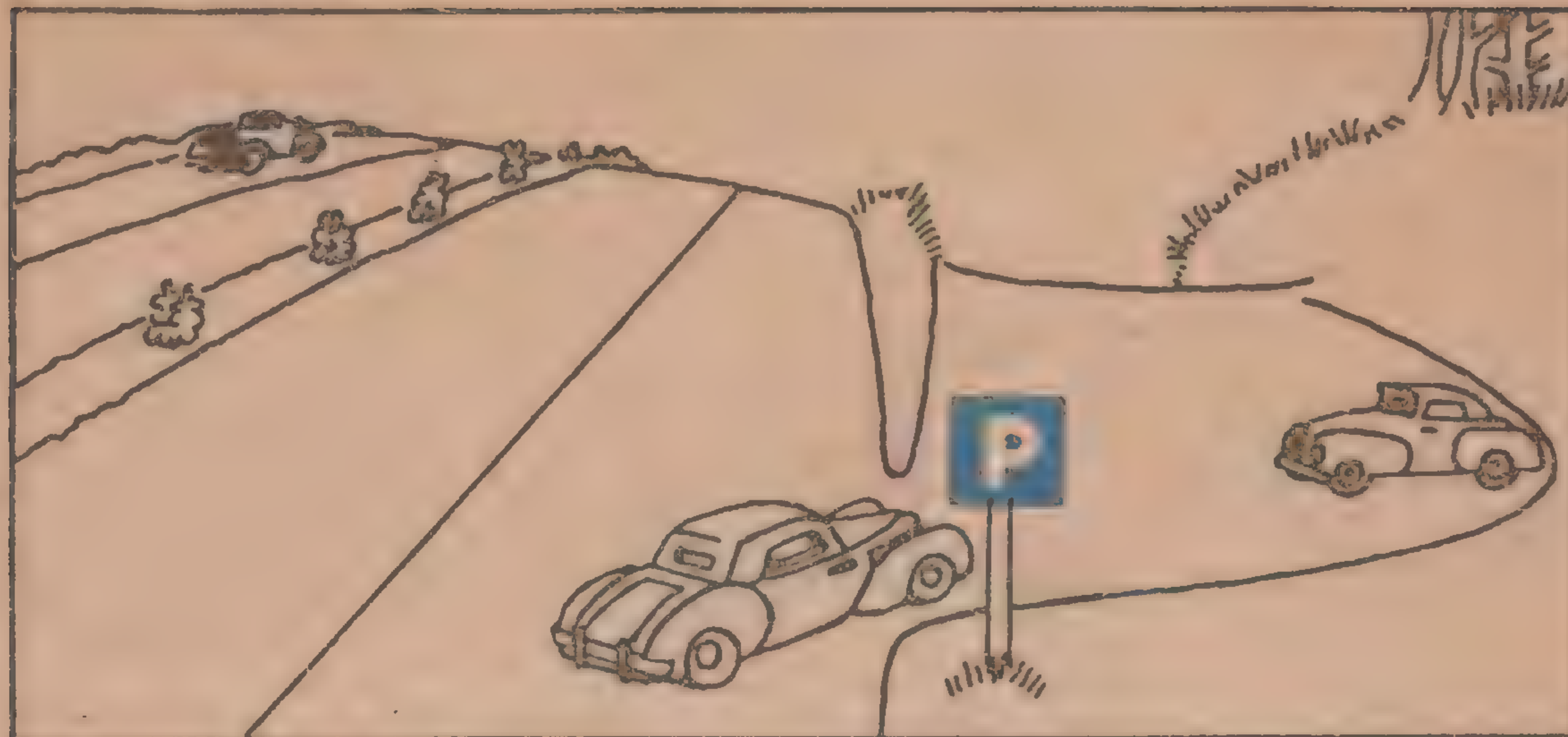
If yellow does not appear RED is larger than green so that the hands, before freeing the street, point to red thus blocking all roads, so that the cross roads may be cleared.



Driving or marching columns must not be broken up or otherwise hindered in their movement.

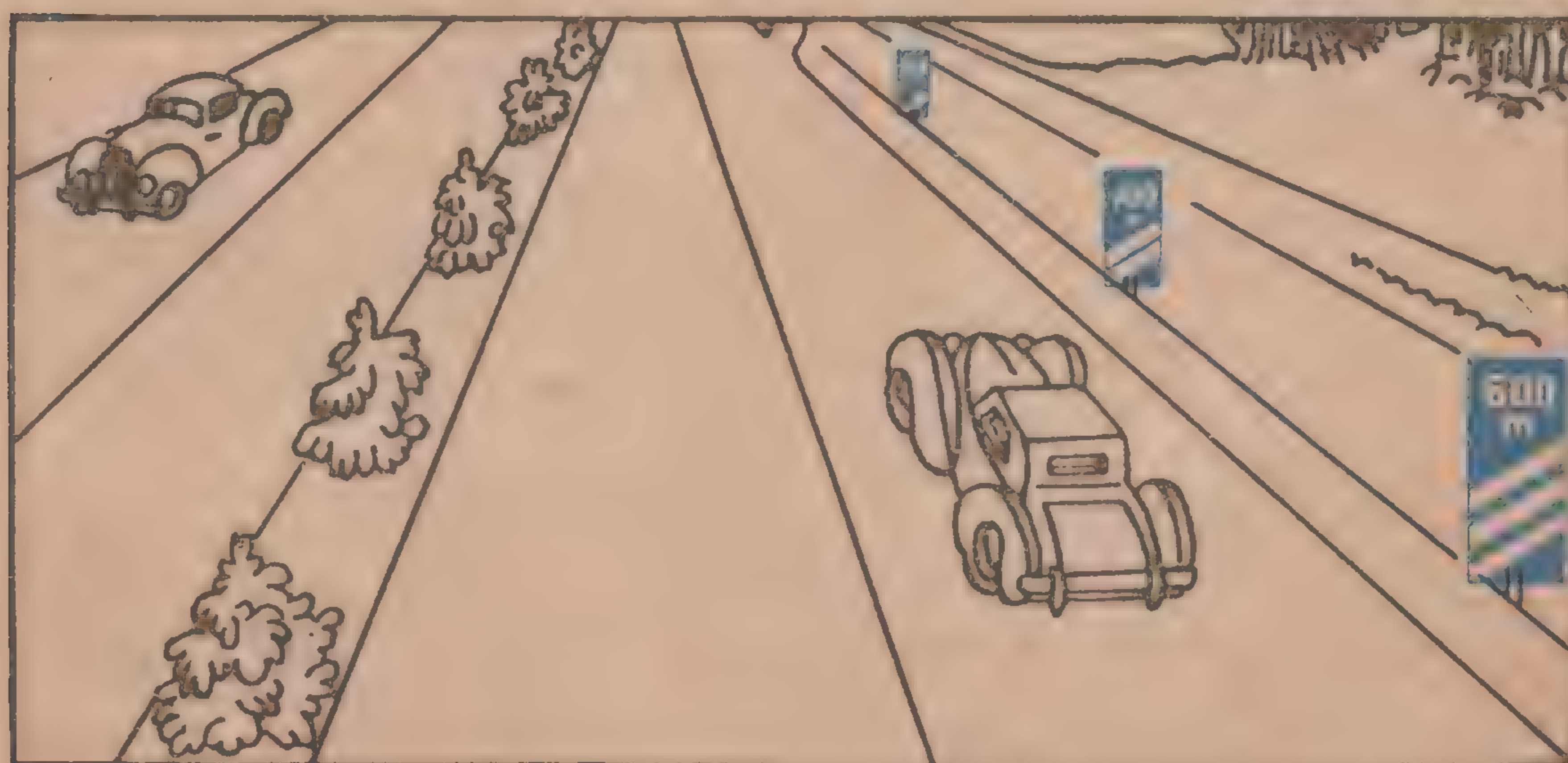


## Autobahn



### Car Parks on Autobahn

Parking is forbidden on the autobahn except at the places marked as car parks. If a vehicle is forced to park outside a car park due to some trouble, German law states it must be marked by red flags during daylight and red hurricane lamps at night. This is not always practical. Beware of unlighted vehicles.



### Distance Signs on the Autobahn

The signs give the distances to the next road junction. They are put up at distances of 600, 400 and 200 metres in front of the junction.



### Directing Signs of the Autobahn

These signs indicate the next exit and give the name of the place.

When leaving the autobahn, be particularly careful as the exit usually runs into a main road. Also your speed sense is likely to be faulty after changing from the autobahn to other roads.

The autobahn normally has an outer strip and two traffic lanes for each carriage way. Always drive in the right hand traffic lane except when overtaking.



### Game crossing Road !

Game crossing the road is dangerous, especially at night. Besides this sign, there are others showing an animal outlined with reflectors.



## Conversion Tables

One kilometre in:

40 seconds equals 56 m.p.h. or 90 k.p.h.

45	"	"	50	"	"	80	"
50	"	"	45	"	"	72	"
55	"	"	41	"	"	65	"
60	"	"	37	"	"	60	"
70	"	"	32	"	"	51	"
80	"	"	28	"	"	45	"
90	"	"	25	"	"	40	"
100	"	"	22	"	"	36	"
110	"	"	20	"	"	33	"
120	"	"	19	"	"	30	"

1 kilometre equals	0.62 miles (5.8 approx)
1 metre	" 3.28 feet
1 kilogram	" 2.2 lbs.
1 litre	" 0.22 gallons
1 gallon	" 4.5 litres

## Speed Limits for Civilian Cars

BAOR vehicles are not allowed to exceed the speed limit laid down for that particular vehicle by the British Authorities. They have also to keep within the speed limit laid down for built-up areas (~~40 k.p.h. = 25 m.p.h.~~) and by traffic signs and warning signs.

The German speed limits for civilian vehicles are as follows:

In built-up areas for all types	40 k.p.h.
Outside built-up areas for motor cars and motor cycles	80 k.p.h.
For lorries and buses (see below)	60 k.p.h.

The speed limits are influenced by the dimensions of tyres:

from 6.00×20 — 7.25×24	50 k.p.h.
from 7.50×20 — 9.75×24	35 k.p.h.
larger dimensions	30 k.p.h.

Trucks of the a/m tyres carry a round white sign on which the speed limit is indicated.

## Braking Distance

Study the following Table and think in terms of Overall Stopping Distance

This is what proper brakes can do on good dry level surfaces

Speed m.p.h.	Thinking Distance	Braking Distance	Overall Stopping Distance	
	Feet	Feet	Feet	or Yards
10	10	5	15	5
20	20	20	40	13
30	30	45	75	25
40	40	80	120	40
50	50	125	175	58

**Thinking Distance** — Distance travelled before driver reacts.

**Braking Distance** — Distance travelled after driver applies brakes.



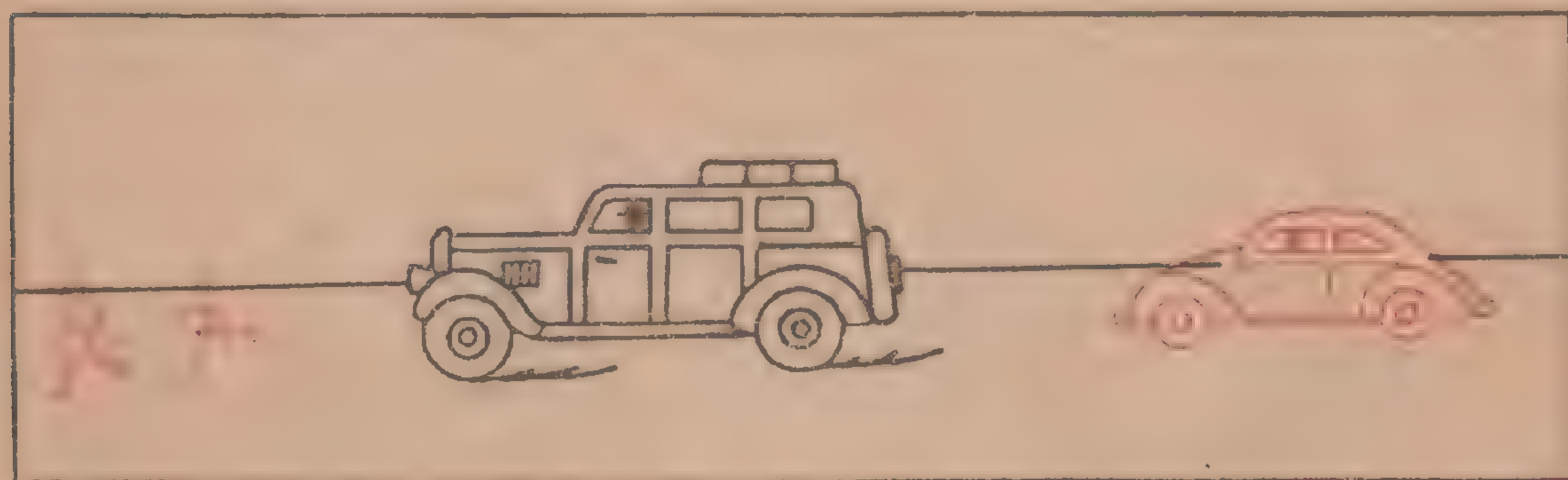
**Do You Realise** how long it takes to pull up a car in an emergency? This table is based on the assumption that the driver reacts quickly and that the brakes and road surface are in good condition. The overall stopping distances indicated represent the least margin of safety which can be allowed at different speeds from 10 to 50 miles per hour.

**Remember that the distances are greatly increased** if road or weather conditions are bad or if the vehicle is not in first class condition. On a skiddy road the braking distance may be more than doubled.

**Cobble and most macadam roads** are very slippery when wet. Many are steeply cambered and have earth verges which may be some inches lower than the hard. Some are in poor condition. These factors further increase the stopping distance. If the brakes are applied too hard, a skid will result and may be very difficult to control.

**Ice and snow** make roads very dangerous.

**Do not follow too closely** behind other vehicles.



If a driver in front in a case of urgency applies his brakes, he has a braking distance as shown in the table on page 47.

This shows how necessary it is that a driver following another vehicle must always be alert.

If the distance between the cars is too short, a crash will follow. An inexperienced driver should keep a greater distance. The following may be regarded as an average distance between two vehicles. The distance in yards should not be less than that which the speedometer indicates in kilometres, i.e., at a speed of 60 k.p.h. the shortest distance should be 60 yards. If the speedometer indicates miles, it should be twice as much, i.e., at a speed of 40 m.p.h. it should be 80 yards.

The braking power of vehicles differs. Supposing the brakes are in good condition, a motor car will be able to stop quicker than a lorry. The brakes of a Volkswagen are often of a poorer quality than those of other vehicles. Always keep a good distance behind motor cycles as they easily slip on macadam roads.

Make sure, by repeatedly looking into the mirror, of the position of the vehicle following. As its brakes may not be in good condition avoid sudden stops to prevent a collision.

## Lights

### BAOR Vehicles

On BAOR vehicles without dimming or dipping headlights, the equivalent of dimming is obtained by switching off one headlight, the other having been focused on the kerb.



The Parking Lights will be used :—

- (a) When driving in places provided with street lighting which permits good vision for at least 50 metres (yards).
- (b) When parking in the road.

The Head Lights will be used :—

Outside inhabited places and in places where the street lighting gives vision for less than 25 metres (yards).

The Dimmer will be used :—

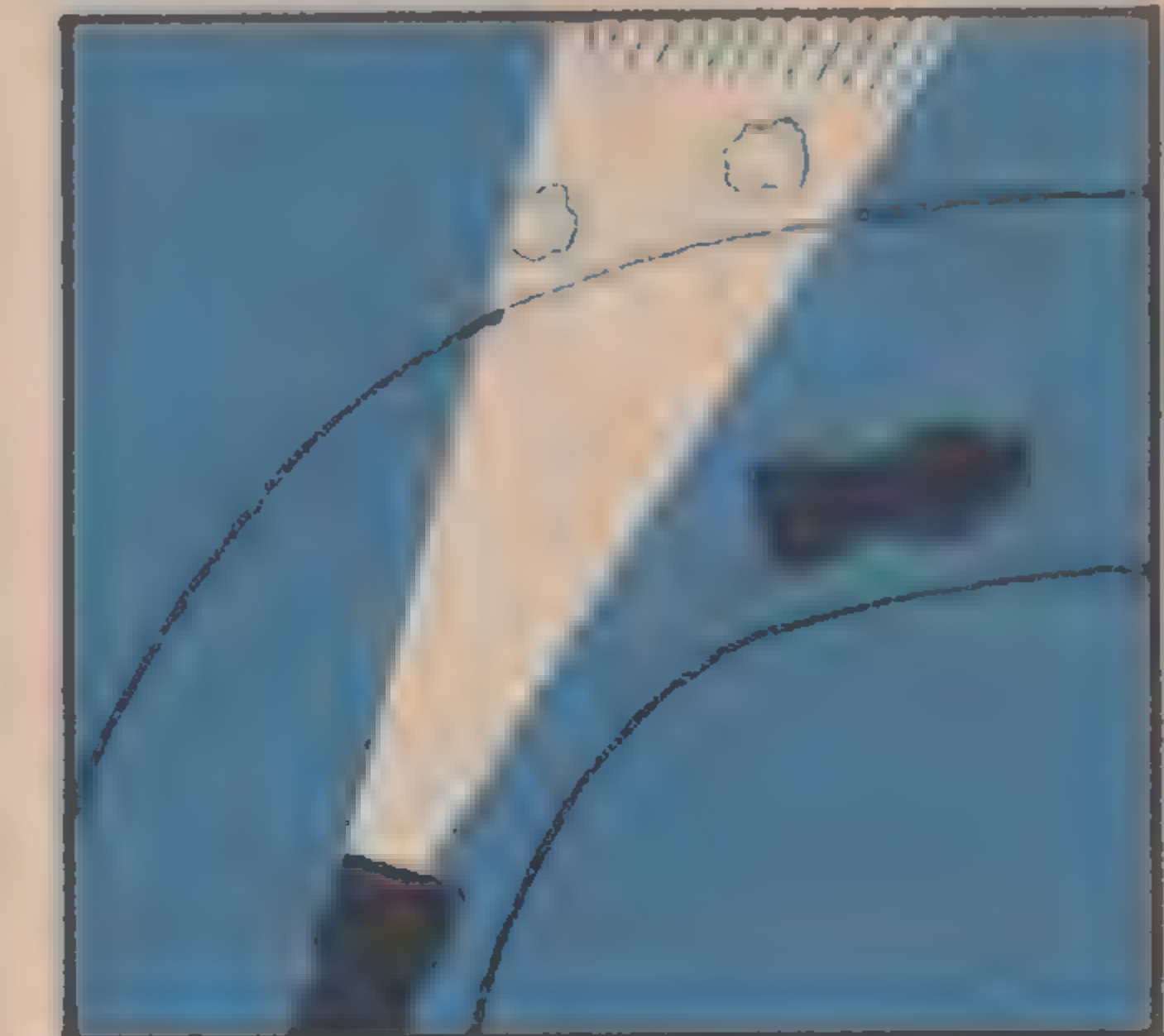
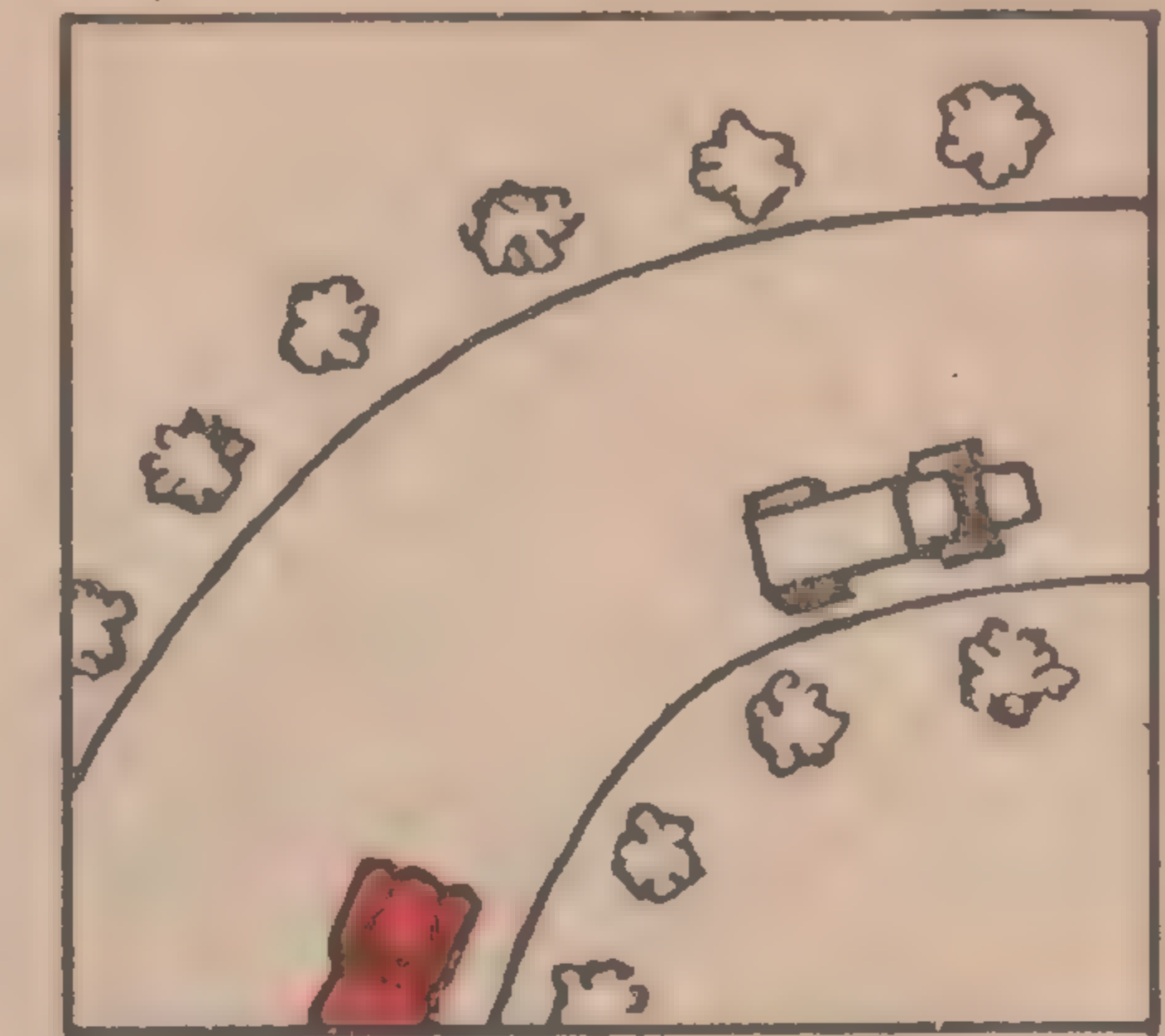
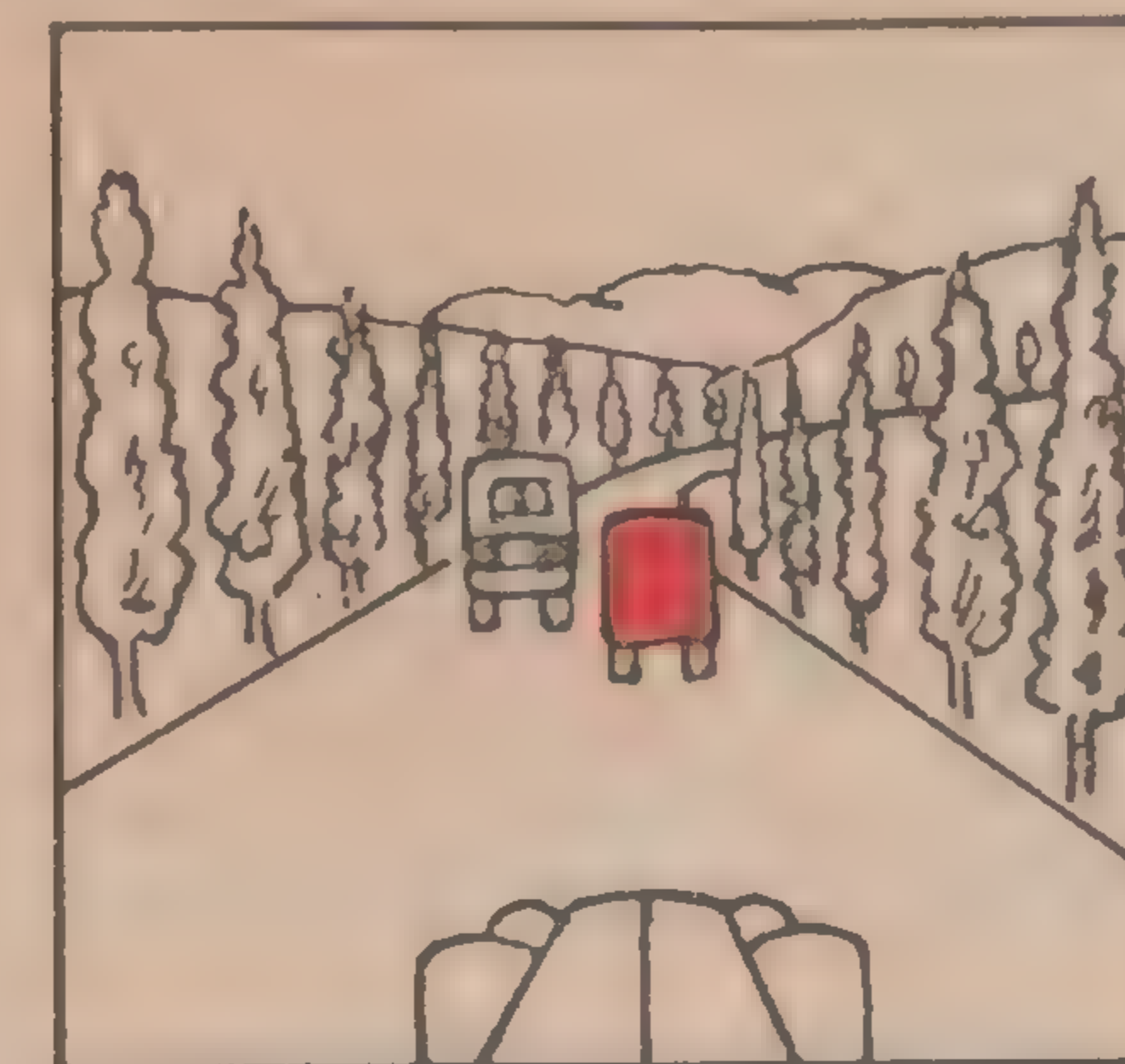
- (a) In places where the street lighting is not good enough for parking lights only and the headlights would inconvenience other road users, including pedestrians.
- (b) When meeting other road users (except single pedestrians). The headlights will be switched on again when the road user approaching from the opposite direction is level and cannot be dazzled.
- (c) When following behind other road users.

### Warning

Many German vehicles break the law by having no tail lamps and certain horse drawn vehicles, etc., have red rear reflectors only. Allowances must be made for this, especially when meeting oncoming traffic at night. Slow down before dimming so that you can stop within your range of vision.

### Driving at Night

The driver must always be in a position to stop within his range of sight.



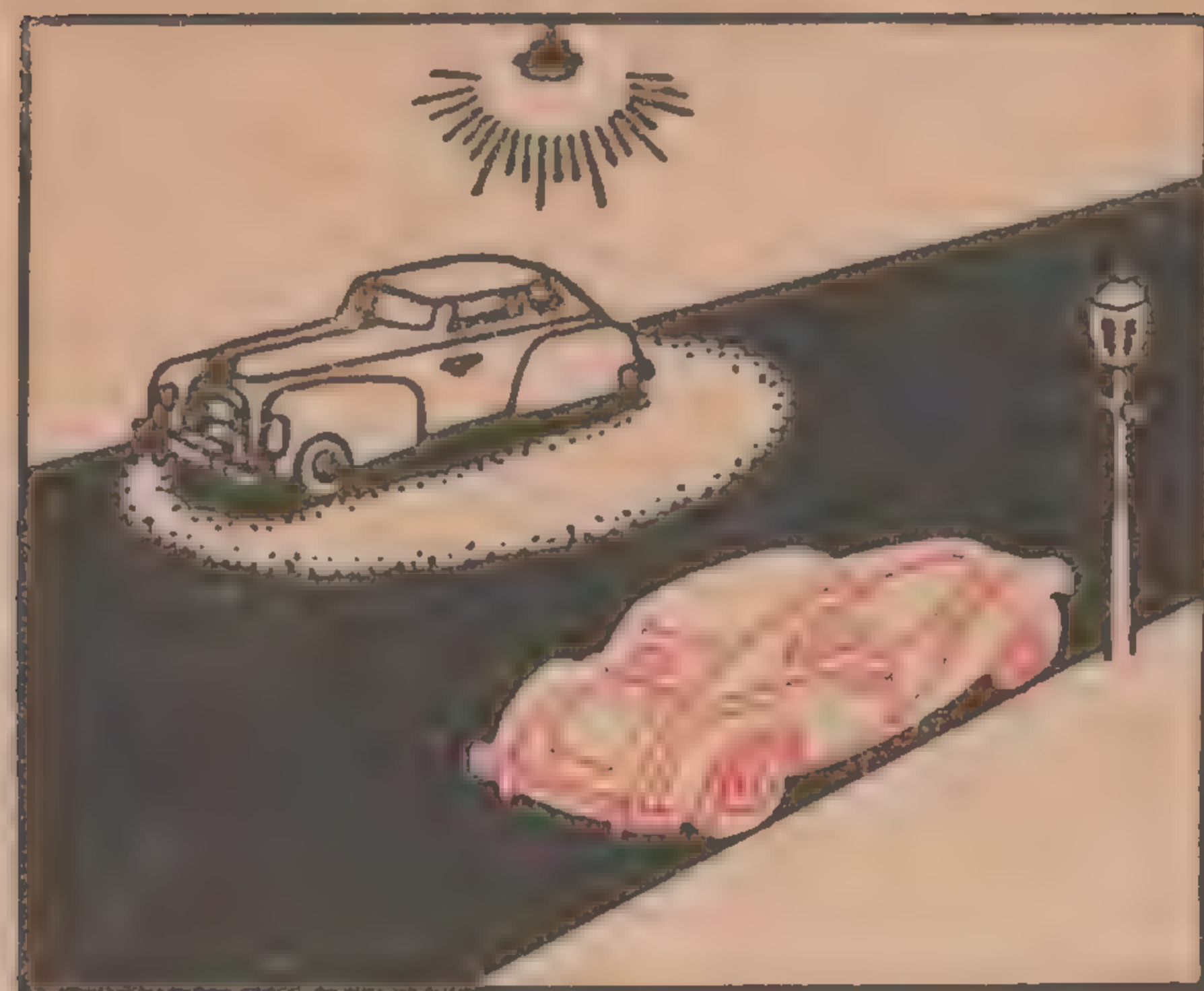
Take into consideration that the range of sight is less at night, especially when the main headlight is dimmed and the road is curved. There is a possibility that a vehicle in front is without a rearlight.

Pay particular attention to a single approaching headlight. This may belong to a motor cycle but it may also belong to a vehicle driving with one headlight and without side lamps. Always drive slowly at night so that you are able to take action within your own range of sight. Before dimming main headlight always reduce speed.

### Narrow Streets

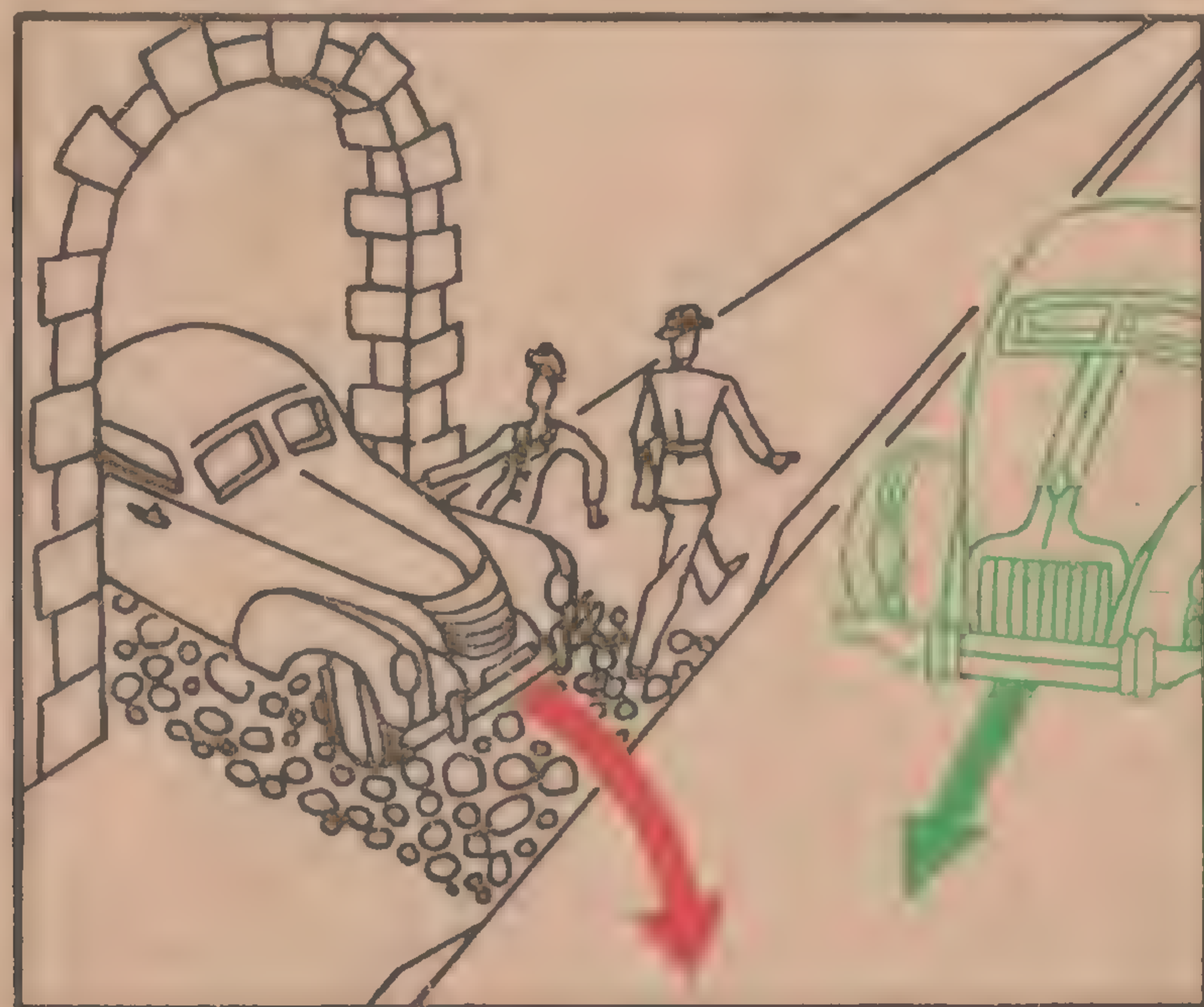
In narrow streets, especially when they are curved, it is not sufficient to drive within range of sight. The driver must be in a position to stop within half of his range of sight in case of vehicles approaching from the opposite direction.



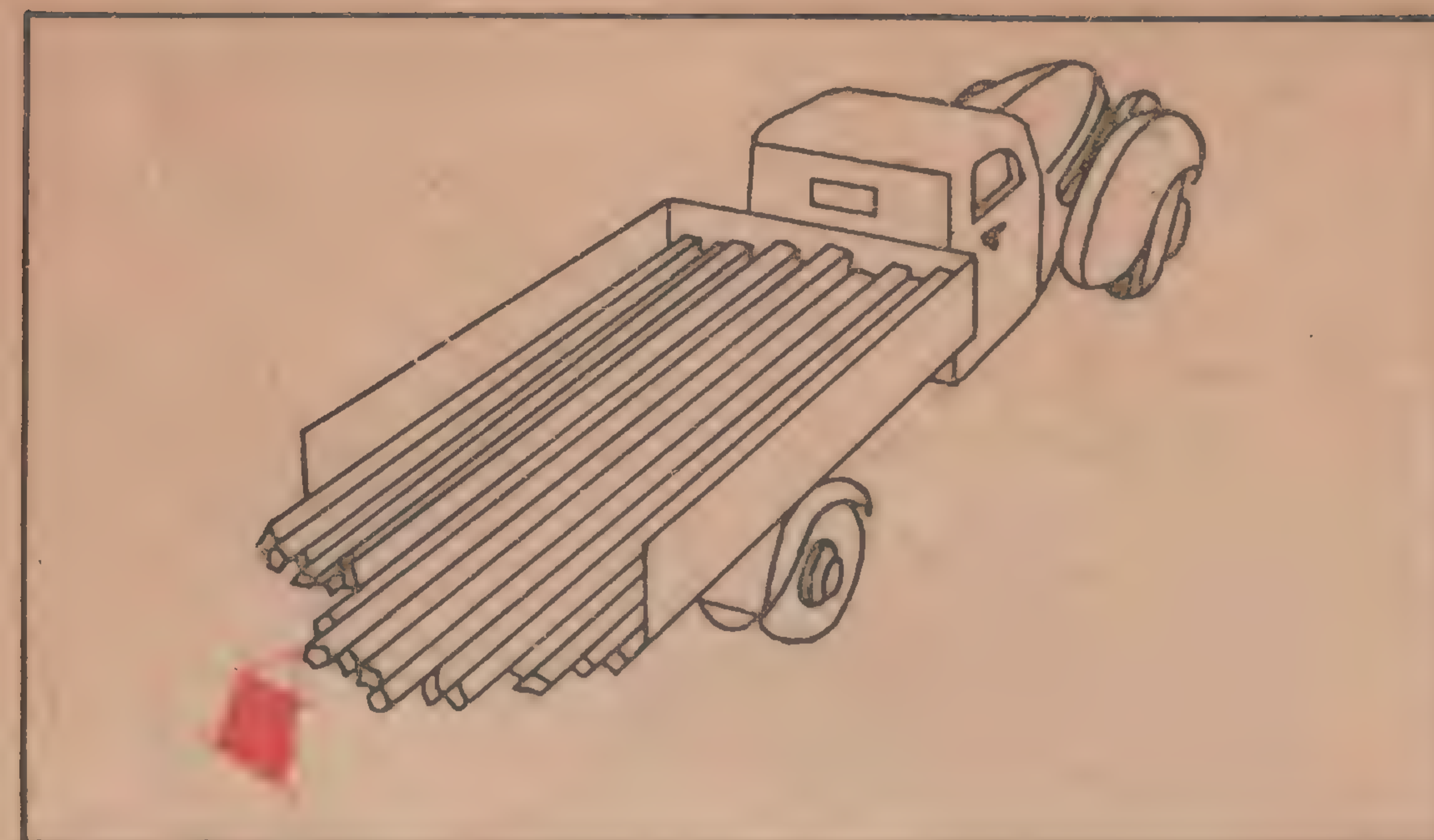


All motor vehicles and their trailers must be lit during the hours of darkness and in dense fog.

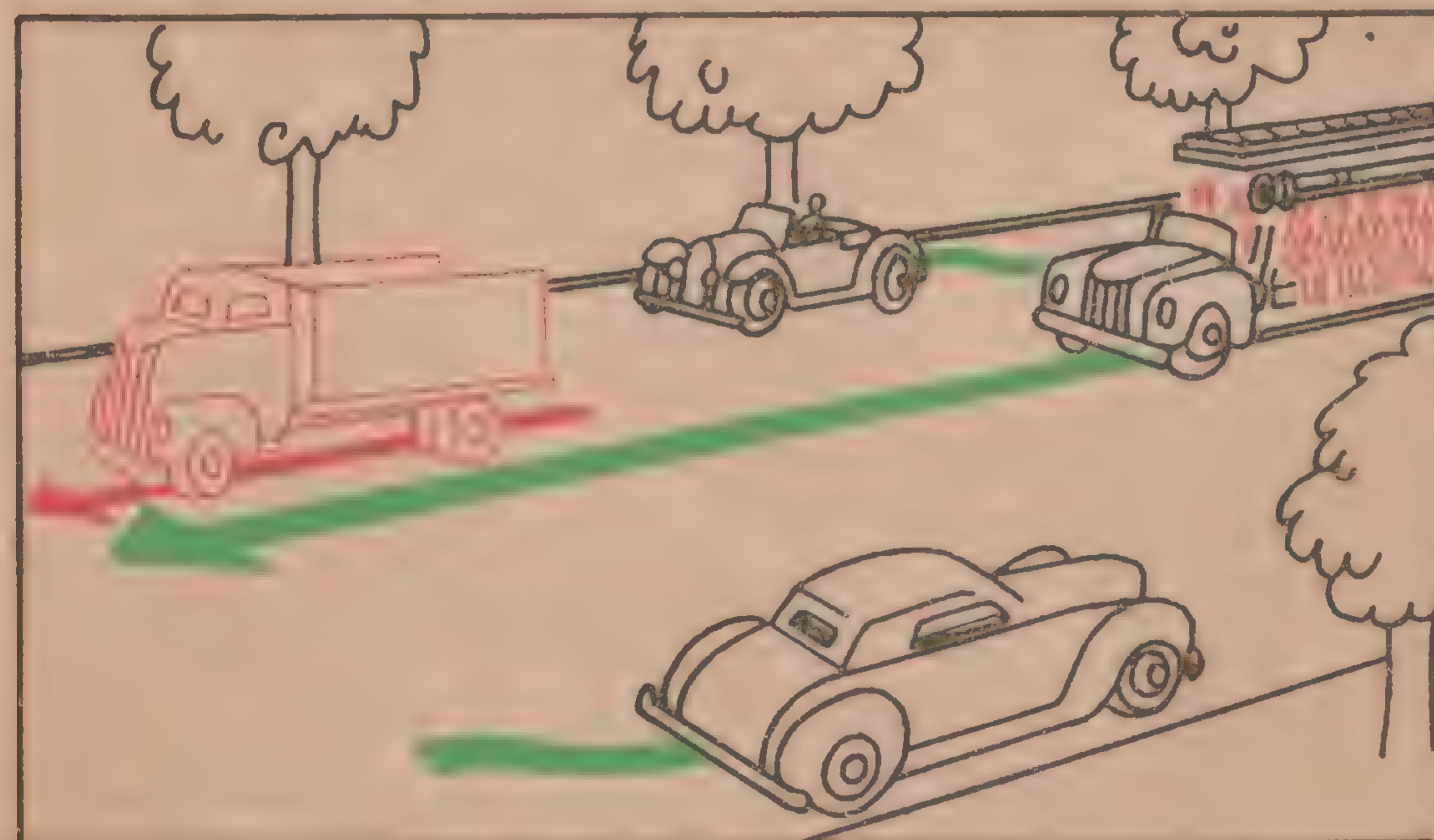
German vehicles are permitted by law to park without lights under street lamps. This will not apply to BAOR vehicles. Lamps with a red ring are not alight all night.



When there are dangerous exits or even when backing, a man should watch the street and signal when it is safe for the vehicle to move without hindering other traffic. The driver, in spite of the second man watching, will be held responsible if accidents occur.



Loads jutting out over the end of the vehicle must be marked by a red flag fastened to the end. Size at least 8 ins by 8 ins. Height from road surface not more than 4 ft. The end jutting out must be marked by a red lamp at night.



Vehicles of the police and fire-brigade must immediately be given right of way if they are on duty.

Pay attention to warnings, Martin horn, blue light !



## **Overtaking Columns**

It is permitted on principle to overtake columns of vehicles in so far as oncoming traffic allows. If necessary, it is permitted to slip into gaps in the column but as little interference as possible should be caused.

## **Yellow Armbands with Three Black Dots**

These armbands are worn by physically handicapped persons. Special attention and consideration must be paid as the persons in question are in most cases disabled, deaf or blind. Stop if necessary.

## **Precautionary measures when leaving Vehicle**

The vehicle must be immobilised as laid down in orders whenever it is left unattended.

## **Moving off from Halt**

When moving off from the halt, ensure that this will not inconvenience other traffic, particularly vehicles which may be about to overtake.

## **Distance from Edge of Road**

If there is no footpath, the driver must keep his vehicle at a distance of one metre (yard) from the edge of the road in so far as the width of the road permits.

## **Road Surfaces**

Beware of pot holes. Vehicles swerving suddenly to avoid them without a signal may be a source of danger.

## **Instructions to Drivers**

### **Speed**

1. Drivers should remember that after long runs on straight roads, especially on the autobahn, their sense of speed will have been affected and they are probably driving quicker than they imagine. They should consider this when they leave the autobahn or reach a built-up area. Special attention to speed must be given when the vehicle has no speedometer or if that instrument is defective and speed must be reduced considerably more than is imagined. It is a good plan to stop for a few minutes after leaving the autobahn so as to regain one's sense of speed.

### **Overtaking**

2. Pay great attention when overtaking. Remember that the vehicle which you are about to overtake might itself pull out in order to pass a slower moving or stationary vehicle. Special attention must be paid when overtaking heavy German lorries with trailers. Make sure that the lorry has no reason to pull out for cyclists or any other road user and that there is enough time for you to pass without endangering the oncoming traffic.

### **Braking**

3. Try to avoid sharp braking. Remember that the vehicle behind you may have less perfect brakes than yours has.

### **Road Surface**

4. If there is any doubt about the state of the road surface great care must be taken. An experienced driver will slow down to as little as 8 or 10 km per hour in order to avoid danger. He must be sure that his speed can be checked in time to avoid an accident or danger should an emergency arise.



## Steering

5. The sides of the steering wheel must be gripped with both hands. This ensures maximum control of the car, especially in the event of a puncture. The wheel should not be held by the spokes or gripped top and bottom.

## Windscreen

6. Always keep the windscreen clean. After cleaning it rub with a piece of newspaper to remove all grease. Use the windscreen-wiper when necessary.

## Driving at Night

7. Before starting on a night journey, the driver should sit for some time with only the sidelights on, to get used to the dark.

In traffic don't look into oncoming lights but keep your eyes on the right lane. Make sure you are able to stop in time in case an unlit vehicle appears in front of you.

## One-way Streets and Streets with several lanes

8. In one-way streets or streets with several lanes and heavy traffic you may be overtaken on either the right or left-hand side.

Never change over from one lane to another unless you are sure that you will not interfere with the traffic on that lane. Give signals in time.

## Dogs

9. Do not pull out in order to avoid dogs. Apply brakes carefully so as to prevent skidding and allow any following vehicle time to stop.

## Cyclists

10. Do not drive too closely behind cyclists. When necessary, give warning signal and sufficient space when passing in case the cyclist is unsteady.

## Motor Cyclists

11. Many accidents are caused by drivers misjudging the rate of approach of motor cycles. Being small they are not readily seen from a distance so their rate of approach can be deceptive.

## Buses

12. Be careful when passing parked buses. It is possible that someone behind will walk onto the road or that someone will run across the street to catch the bus. Remember that people will risk much to catch a bus because they do not want to wait for the next one. Often the would-be passengers are tired and therefore careless. When children leave a school bus and cross the street, stop and allow them to pass.



## **Parked Vehicles**

13. Be on the look-out for pedestrians standing behind stationary vehicles and about to step onto the road. Glance under the stationary vehicle and if you can see the feet of pedestrians be particularly careful. Do not drive too closely past stationary vehicles.

## **Driving in reverse**

14. Many accidents are caused by a reversing vehicle bumping into the one behind it. Before turning or reversing make sure that the road is clear.

## **Kerbs**

15. Never drive onto or strike the kerbs. This damages the tyres. Usually the damage cannot be seen but it is there nevertheless.

## **Errors committed unconsciously**

16. Most drivers make errors unwittingly. After they have learned to drive, and have gained self-confidence they often become over-confident. They slowly increase their speed and soon are in the habit of driving too fast for the prevailing traffic regulations.

All drivers know that they must keep to the right and must not cut curves and corners. On sloping streets they begin to take curves too short when the road is clear, because it is easier for them to do so. Even on clear streets this is wrong, because it will become a habit. This will lead to curves being cut on roads which are not clear and some day may result in a bad accident.

Other faults gradually developing are; driving too closely behind other vehicles; passing cyclists too closely; gripping the steering wheel carelessly.

## **Duties and Responsibilities of Drivers**

17. It is the duty of a driver to deliver his passengers in comfort, and freight in safety, to their destination. Part of the passenger's comfort is the certainty that the driver is reliable. Passengers should not be driven dangerously.

Drivers must keep their eyes on the road, except for an occasional look into the mirror or at the dashboard. They are not allowed to look around even if something is being pointed out to them by passengers. Drivers must not allow their attention to be distracted by questions from passengers.

A cautious driver may avoid accidents by using his eyes and his brain, e.g., a ball on the street is a warning sign that a child is nearby and will run after it. A group of children is a sign of danger as one of them may run into the street.

Drive slowly.

## **Causes of Accidents**

18. The safe and not the quick driver is the good driver. The following points about causes of accidents may help the driver to become a safe driver. In all accidents where a moving vehicle is involved, the great speed of one or more vehicles is the main factor. If the vehicle or the vehicles had been driven more slowly, the accident could have been avoided. Together with excessive speed the following faults are common :

### **(a) Incorrect Overtaking**

It is annoying to drive behind a slowly moving vehicle. Drivers become impatient and overtake carelessly. That is incorrect. Be patient.



**(b) Cutting Bends and Corners**

All drivers know that this is wrong and that they have to keep to the right. Curves must never be cut short even if the road is free.

**(c) Incautious driving on Cross Roads**

In Germany twice as many accidents happen on cross roads than in England where there are many more cross roads with heavier traffic. The reason is that drivers in Germany become careless because there is not so much traffic on the road. They do not stop and slow down as often as is necessary: so be careful.

**(d) Following too closely**

It is absolutely senseless to follow too closely behind other vehicles. This will not help you to arrive more quickly at your destination.

**Are you a good Driver?**

19. Read this manual once again and do ask yourself whether you are guilty of any of the above-listed faults. If yes, then you are not a good driver. If an experienced passenger is driven by you, it is always good to ask him to check your driving and to criticise, in case you have developed faults. A good driver is very often in a position by carefulness, skill and caution to prevent a careless driver having an accident. The high rate of accidents to pedestrians and children is caused partly by their own carelessness and partly by speeding vehicles. The driver in certain cases may be formally acquitted of responsibility, but his conscience

will always tell him, if he has been in any way at fault in the case of an accident.

**To be a safe driver  
DRIVE SLOWLY  
and never take risks**